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OPINION METER

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Should large businesses be required to hook up to the CUC grid?

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INSIDE

ASIA



A bomb planted at a busy bus terminal in Pakistan kills 14 people.

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WORLD



The Ukrainian parliament struggles to work out who is in charge of the country.

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House members profile Fitial extradition resolution. PAGE 2
Quichocho: Nothing 'extraordinary' happened in Guam. PAGE 3

2 found dead in burned house

Police and fire personnel responded to a report of a structure fire in As Gonno around midnight Sunday. After putting out the blaze, responders made a gruesome discovery among the smoking remains: two bodies that were burned beyond recognition.

In a news briefing yesterday, Department of Public Safety Commissioner James C. Deleon Guerrero said the bodies have yet to be identified.

"Details are quite sketchy at this time and other than that we don't have any-

more additional information to offer," he said.

He did confirm that the fire was reported by a neighbor.

It was not immediately learned if an

See DEAD on Page 4

DUE TO LOW CHLORINE SUPPLY:

Rota nears 'boil water notice'—mayor

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

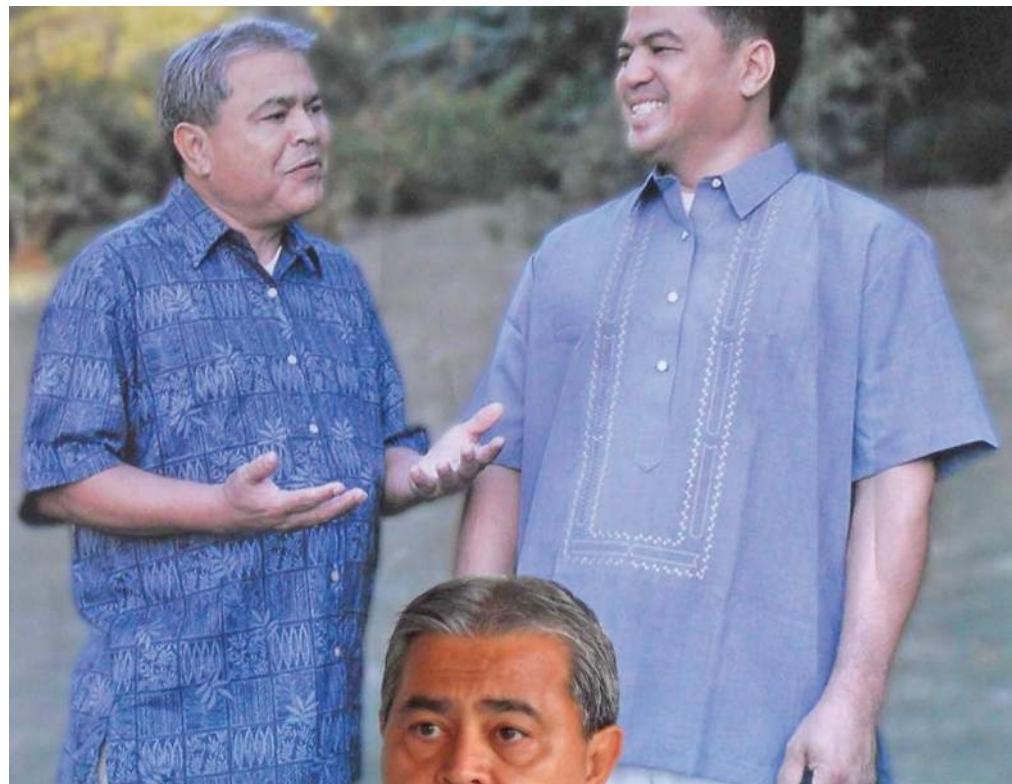
Rota Mayor Melchor Men迪ola said last night that the island is nearing the point wherein residents will be asked to boil their water for health reasons as the chlorine

» Island also runs out of propane gas

supply used for water treatment "is low."

Rota remains under a state of emergency as many essential goods and commodities still cannot reach the island by sea cargo due to

See ROTA on Page 4



Heinz teams up with Yumul

» Second runoff race could be in the offing
» GOP yet to decide on Babauta's open primary request

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Former House speaker Heinz Sablan Hofschneider declared yesterday his intent to run for governor—his third try since 2005—this time as an indepen-

dent and with Senate floor leader Ray Naraja Yumul (Ind-Saipan) as his running mate. With at least four eyeing the top post, the CNMI looks headed for a second gubernatorial runoff race; in the first one, Hofschneider lost to Benigno R. Fitial in 2009.

"We are your choice for change," Hofschneider said. See HEINZ on Page 4

Former House speaker Heinz S. Hofschneider, left, and Senate President Ralph Yumul (Ind-Saipan), right, answer media questions during their announcement yesterday of their intention to run for governor and lieutenant governor, respectively, as independents in the November elections. Their tandem could be up against at least three others, and could trigger another gubernatorial runoff race.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

PICKS OF THE WEEK



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Local

House members prefile Fitial extradition resolution

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

House speaker Frank Dela Cruz (Ind-Saipan) and six other members prefiled yesterday a resolution asking Gov. Eloy S. Inos to "take the necessary actions for the immediate extradition of former governor Benigno R. Fitial" to face criminal charges against him related to corruption. The resolution will be acted on next week.

"The principle that no one is above the law because justice is blind mandates that Fitial should have his day in court and that Gov. Eloy S. Inos should not stand idle nor do nothing while Fitial attempts to remain above the law," the four-page House Resolution 18-56 partly states.

Inos is currently in Washington, D.C. for a series of meetings.

The resolution requesting Fitial's extradition was prefiled

five days after Fitial's attorney general Edward Buckingham was convicted and sentenced on similar charges.

Only Fitial remains unserved with the arrest warrant in connection with the alleged conspiracy case.

Dela Cruz said the resolution will be taken up during the next session next week.

Rep. Ray Tebuteb (Ind-Saipan), one of the resolution's cosponsors, said lawmakers need to think of "why they should support the resolution" rather than "why they should not support it," referring to charges against Fitial related to misconduct, corruption, conspiracy to obstruct justice, and obstruction of justice, among other things.

Besides Dela Cruz and Tebuteb, the other cosponsors of the extradition resolution are Reps. Mario Taitano (Ind-Saipan), Antonio Benavente

(Ind-Saipan), Ralph Yumul (Ind-Saipan), John Paul Sablan (Cov-Saipan), and Edmund Vilagomez (Cov-Saipan).

The seven were among the 16 of 20 lawmakers who voted "yes" to impeach Fitial on 18 charges of corruption, felony, and neglect of duty. Fitial resigned on Feb. 20, 2013, days before the start of his impeachment trial at the Senate.

But the resolution is still on its way to be adopted, based on some members' statement yesterday.

Rep. Trenton Conner (Ind-Timian), for example, also a co-sponsor of the impeachment resolutions in 2012 and 2013, said he was off-island when the extradition resolution was prefiled. He said he supports the resolution's intent.

» 'Inos should not stand idle while Fitial attempts to remain above the law'

Rep. Janet Maratita (Ind-Saipan) said she will vote "yes" to the extradition request resolution.

Rep. Larry Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan), who voted "yes"

to the 2013 impeachment of Fitial, said yesterday that Fitial, like anyone charged, should be able to defend themselves in court.

"He's charged. He should face the charges against him, just like anybody else. Officials are not immune," Deleon Guerrero said, adding that he will vote "yes" to the resolution.

Rep. Roman Benavente (Ind-Saipan), meanwhile, said he is cautious about the matter, reiterating that it is a "sensitive issue." He said he has yet to see the resolution. Rep. Antonio Agulto (Ind-Saipan),

said he will talk to the media about it today.

House Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan), main author of the impeachment resolutions on Fitial, left Sunday for Washington, D.C. on official business. The others couldn't be reached for comment yesterday.

H.R. 18-56 says that Buckingham, during his trial, testified in detail that Fitial played a significant and personal role in the criminal offenses that Buckingham was found guilty of committing by testifying under oath and under penalty of perjury that Fitial personally ordered and arranged for the illegal police escort to the airport and the illegal attempts to thwart service of process.

It's been a little over a year since Fitial resigned from office, after being impeached by the 18th House of Representatives.

Superior Court associate

Judge David Wiseman issued a warrant of arrest for Fitial on March 6, 2013.

Fitial is believed to be in his wife's hometown of Gapan in Nueva Ecija, a Philippine province north of Manila.

"OPA [Office of the Public Auditor] has not received a call from Fitial or anyone acting on the former governor's behalf to arrange for Fitial's prompt and expeditious return to the CNMI so that he may stand trial," HR 18-56 says.

It adds that those who have been elected or appointed to the Office of the Governor and extended the privilege of serving the Commonwealth "should be of exemplary personal, professional and more character so that their execution of official duties is carried out with the highest regard for equal justice, transparency, and respect for the people and their expectations of honesty, decency, and fairness."



BEST OF THE WEST

Gov. Eloy S. Inos joined yesterday his colleagues from the Western Governors' Association in a meeting with some of President Obama's Cabinet, including Interior Secretary Sally Jewell, Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz, Agriculture Secretary Thomas Vilsack, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Gina McCarthy, and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Administrator Dr. Kathryn Sullivan. The meeting discussion centered on issues affecting western states and territories such as wildfires, Endangered Species Act, renewable energy, the farm bill, and other agricultural matters.

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

1 of 7 arrested tagged as alleged leader of 'ice' suppliers on Saipan

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Xing Bo Fang, one of the seven persons arrested for alleged distribution of methamphetamine or "ice," is reportedly the No. 1 in command of an organization of drug suppliers on Saipan.

Drug Enforcement Administration special agent Jacqueline R. Gordon disclosed in documents filed in federal court that during their operation against the 46-year-old Fang, they were able to seize 135.6 gross grams of substance that tested positive for "ice."

Gordon said that in July 2012, the DEA Saipan Post of Duty initiated an investigation into Fang based on information received from a confidential source that the suspect is a large-scale distributor of "ice."

According to their confidential source, Fang is the leader of "ice" distributors operating on Saipan, Gordon said.

The confidential source also revealed that Fang is the source of supply for several Chinese nationals, including Yu Hua Wang, who is the alleged second in command to Fang.

Yu Hua Wang was also

among the seven persons arrested in the operation last week conducted by combined agents from DEA, Department of Public Safety, and CNMI Customs and Border Protection.

Gordon said that Fang allegedly receives a kilogram of "ice" every month from his supplier in the People's Republic of China. Fang then would allegedly supply Wang with 20 to 30 grams of "ice" per week.

Gordon said that on Dec. 27, 2013, a DEA confidential source met with Wang at his house on Sailing Drive in Dandan.

Prior to that meeting, the con-

fidential source met with agents and Task Force Officers and was equipped with audio and video recording devices to record the meeting.

Gordon said that, according to the confidential source, Wang offered to supply the confidential source with large quantities of "ice" for distribution.

Wang was willing to "front" (provide "ice" on consignment) the confidential source 100 to 200 grams of "ice" if the confidential source would agree to make a down payment.

The confidential source in-

formed Wang that he/she did not have any money for down payment. Wang, however, agreed to "front" the confidential source 100 grams of "ice" at a price of \$170 per gram for a total price of \$17,000.

Wang gave the confidential source 20 days to distribute the "ice" and return with full payment.

After the negotiations, Wang left while the confidential source remained at Wang's residence, awaiting his return.

The confidential source later called Wang on the phone and that Wang allegedly stated that he would advise Fang to give the "ice" to the confi-

dential source.

Fang, who was also at the house, left a bedroom holding a plastic bag and walked toward the restroom. The confidential source followed him to the restroom, where Fang allegedly handed him a plastic bag containing "ice."

The confidential source left the house, met with investigators, and gave them the plastic bag of "ice."

Aside from Fang and Yu Hua Wang, also arrested on Thursday were Daniel A. Castro, 32; Vicente S. Palacios, 38; Bao Zhong Wang, 46; Hong Wang, 40; and Le Xiang Chen, 63.

Quichocho: Nothing 'extraordinary' happened in Guam

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Attorney Ramon K. Quichocho testified in federal court yesterday that he treated businesswoman Jung Ka Kim like a sister and denied that anything "extraordinary" happened between him and Kim inside a hotel room in Guam.

Quichocho took the witness stand after Kim rested her case when her last witness, MD. Delowar, completed his testimony.

Upon questioning by his counsel, Michael Dotts, Quichocho said several times that he treated Kim as his sister and a family member.

When asked if anything "extraordinary" happened between him and Kim in a room they shared at Hyatt in Guam on Nov. 1, 2008, the lawyer said that nothing happened as he was tired, just slept, and woke up at 7am the following day.

At this point, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona adjourned the hearing, saying that Dotts will continue questioning Quichocho when trial resumes on March 3.

Quichocho recounted that it was on the morning of Nov. 1, 2008, when Kim called him on the phone, saying she had been crying all night because her former husband did something bad to her.

Having heard that the psychiatrist at the Commonwealth Health Center has already left CHC, Quichocho said he decided to bring Kim to Guam for treatment as he was worried she would commit suicide. He said his wife, Frances, dropped him and Kim off at the Saipan airport that afternoon.

Upon arriving in Guam, Quichocho said the girlfriend of his uncle met them and they proceeded to Guam Memorial Hospital, where Kim was seen by a psychiatrist or psychologist.

Quichocho said that after buying medicine and getting dinner, he brought Kim to the Hyatt. At the time, he said, there were a lot of military personnel in Guam but he managed to get a room.

Quichocho said that Kim's friend in Guam showed up and that made him think that the friend would stay with her.

Quichocho said that Kim followed him inside the hotel room. He said he never heard Kim say "don't touch me" before going inside the room.

He said there were two beds inside the room. He said he was very tired, showered, set the alarm clock, and the next thing he knew it was already about 7am. He said he and

Kim then had breakfast.

Dotts asked if anything "extraordinary" happened inside the room.

"No," Quichocho replied. Dotts then told U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona that it was the best time to adjourn for the day. The judge agreed and continued the trial on March 3.

» Lawyer takes witness stand, says he treated Kim as his sister

Kim is suing the Quichocho couple, the Quichocho law firm, and the couple's Karissa LLC for racketeering and other claims. On Feb. 7, she testified that Quichocho raped her twice in 2008, including in Guam, while she was on medication due to depression and anxiety.

Quichocho also testified yesterday how he moved his law firm's office to some rooms on the second floor of the two-story Signs Arts Building in San Jose owned by So-In Corp. and Kim in 2007.

He said he signed the lease agreement with Kim's former brother-in-law at \$400 monthly and on the understanding that he would evict the then-current tenants who were not paying rent.

The lawyer said he wrote on Oct. 19, 2007, a notice to the tenants to vacate the building, but they did not respond and just moved out because they did not want to be sued.

Quichocho said So-In Corp. renovated the units that his law firm then occupied.

He admitted his involvement in preparation of documents for some of Kim's companies.

Quichocho said he represented Kim and So-In Corp. in at least two Labor cases. He said he was charging \$200 per hour, but there was no retainer agreement in those cases.

The lawyer said there was absolutely no discussion about offsetting his legal representation in Labor cases with the apartment rent.

He said in the latter part of 2007, he and his wife, Frances, started a family friendship with Kim.

Quichocho also disclosed that in 2008 he and his wife once offered Kim their property for ground lease to serve as property bond for the temporary release of Kim's former husband, who was then facing a criminal case.

Quichocho said he and Kim eventually cancelled the ground lease after five months because the property bond was not needed anymore as the Superior Court agreed to reduce the bail.

He said Kim posted a \$25,000 cash bail for her former husband.

When Dotts asked him why



Quichocho

Dotts then submitted as evidence several photos of Kim, the Quichochos, their children, together in social and family gatherings.

Quichocho said he and Kim got close to each other as a family as she showed respect to his family, uncles and aunts. At some point, he said, Kim was closer to Frances than him.

Quichocho said they allowed Kim to use one room in their law office for her safety because her former in-laws were harassing her in her office on the first floor of the Signs Arts Building.

He said he, Frances, and Kim had a pleasure trip in Guam in September 2008. He also stated that three of them also went to Rota together in November 2008 and in January 2009.

Quichocho also stated that

he represented Kim, her family, and companies in at least three civil lawsuits, but there were no retainer fees.

Quichocho said he, however, expected to receive legal fees for his representation at some point.

When asked why he did not send his billings in 2008, Quichocho said he really treated Kim as his sister.

"I don't bill my sister, brother right away. There is a so-called grace period. If they have the money already, they can pay me," he said.

Quichocho said Kim be-

came a member of Tan Dingo LLC, that he, Frances, and his uncle Joaquin Atalig, formed in 2006, because she wanted to feel part of the family.

Quichocho said there was absolutely no agreement that Kim would buy 100 percent of Tan Dingo LLC shares.

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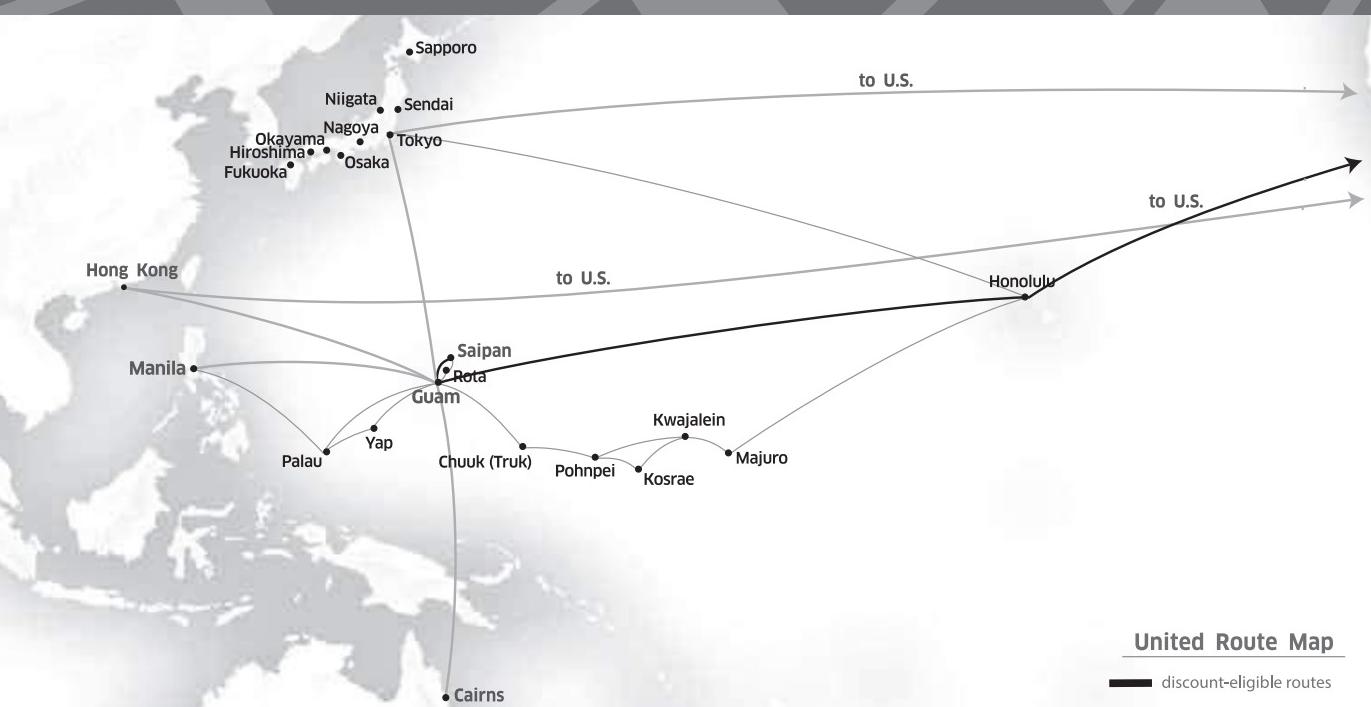
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A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER

House panel asks DPL update on land leases with investors

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

House Committee on Natural Resources chair Antonio Benavente (Ind-Saipan) asked Department of Public Lands Secretary Pete A. Tenorio yesterday for an update on the status of its public land lease agreements with investors, including South Korean-based property giant E Land's Micronesia Resort Inc.

Benavente said there have been concerns raised about MRI's ac-

quisition of Coral Ocean Point (Suwaso Corp), as well as a pending decision to lease a San Antonio lot either to MRI or another investor, referring to Hong Kong-based Honest Profit.

The House committee is also inquiring about DPL's recent decision to enter into a lease agreement related to a Marpi lot. The panel is referring to Tan Holdings.

Benavente seeks a meeting with the DPL secretary and his staff on Tuesday, March 4, at

house to the ground.

Investigators from the Commonwealth Bureau of Investigation and Fire Services Division were seen at the area yesterday afternoon and were interviewing nearby residents about the incident.

According to one neighbor, it may be a possible suicide. "I don't think they got burned ac-

9:30am in the House chamber on Capital Hill "to discuss the land leases and agreement that you have entered into."

"Additionally, we are informed that [DPL] has leased out or is in the process of leasing out a total of 139,832 square meters of public lands on the island of Saipan, specifically in the Marpi and San Antonio area," the committee said.

Two weeks ago, E Land/MRI officials led by chief executive officer and president Seong

cidentally," he said.

Another neighbor said that relatives of the victims live nearby. They couldn't be immediately reached for comment.

Deleon Guerrero said that police will release more information as soon as they're done with their investigation. (*Jayson Camacho*)

Min Kang met behind closed doors with Gov. Eloy S. Inos about their ongoing renovation of Coral Ocean Point and plans for reopening the former Palms

Resort Saipan. But the company provided scant details about these plans.

Some elected officials have expressed doubts about E

Land's ability to move forward with what the investor group earlier claimed is an initial \$4 million renovation of Coral Ocean Point as part of an estimated \$40 million, multi-year investment plan.

Ninth Circuit affirms conviction of man who tried to sneak into LA-bound flight

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit has affirmed the conviction of a man who tried to sneak aboard a Los Angeles-bound flight using fake papers.

The Ninth Circuit judges ruled that because Dongjun Li possessed a fraudulent document purporting to allow him to physically enter the United States (and because authentic versions of that document are authorized by regulation), the motion to dismiss the indictment against him was properly denied.

The Ninth Circuit judges said that Congress did not define "entry into" or "authorized

stay" in the statute or elsewhere in Chapter 75 of Title 18.

"Thus, we interpret entry to mean physical entry, or the act of physically coming into the United States," the judges said.

In February 2012, a federal jury found Li, a Chinese national, guilty of immigration fraud and false statement.

The document fraud was related to his possession and use of fake advance parole documents when he tried to check in for a trip to California on July 15, 2011, at the Saipan International Airport using fake papers.

In February 2012, the court sentenced Li to 203 days of time served in jail.

Li, through counsel, appealed his conviction for unlawful possession of a counterfeit immi-

gration document.

Li argued that under the legal entry fiction, whereby a non-citizen may be physically within the U.S.'s border without legally having effected entry, the advance parole document would not authorize him to "enter" or lawfully "stay" in the U.S. within the meaning of the criminal statute.

The Ninth Circuit judges said, "Where a statutory term is not defined in the statute, it is appropriate to accord the term in its ordinary meaning."

"When there is no indication that Congress intended a specific legal meaning for the term, the court may look to sources such as dictionaries for a definition," they said.

for this to end," he added.

Rota has been declared under a state of emergency since Feb. 14.

For three months now or since Nov. 18, 2013, Rota has been unable to receive essential goods and commodities as the barges couldn't enter the West Harbor due to rough seas and bad weather conditions.

Although some goods have been brought into Rota via airplane, including those from the U.S. Department of Defense, not all essential goods and commodities can be brought in without using sea transportation and supplies have "currently been depleted."

DEAD

From Page 1

autopsy will be done on the remains of the two victims.

The blaze occurred at a house southeast of Koblerville Elementary School. Footage from KSPN 2 last night showed that the fire razed the



JAYSON CAMACHO

Photo shows the road going into As Gonno, the residence of the victims where police detectives were seen exiting from the shrubbery. The bodies were found at Magisa Drive in As Gonno leading into Empanada Lane.

HEINZ

From Page 1

schneider said at the start of his and Yumul's announcement yesterday morning in the Hofschneider family compound in Upper Gualo Rai.

Hofschneider said his seven to eight months of house-to-house visit, "listening to people," led up to yesterday's declaration.

At the presentation, Hofschneider's wife Susana was by his side, and Yumul's wife Maritess was also by his side.

The Hofschneider-Yumul team is running opposite at least three others: Gov. Eloy S. Inos and Senate President Ralph Torres (R-Saipan) of the Republican Party; former governor Juan N. Babauta and former senator Juan S. Torres, who are asking the GOP for an open primary; and former Commonwealth Ports Authority executive director Edward "Tofila" Masga Deleon Guerrero, a Democrat.

The gubernatorial race so far pits against each other two sitting senators as lieutenant

governor candidates and two former gubernatorial opponents running against each other once again, among other things.

There are still some nine months before the November general elections.

GOP president James A. Ada, meanwhile, said yesterday there is no decision yet on Babauta's request for an open primary, but an emergency meeting will be held this week to tackle the matter.

Some Republican leaders said the GOP already endorsed the Inos-Torres ticket in September, so a primary is no longer needed.

Babauta is not commenting yet whether he would run as an independent if the Republican Party declines his request for a primary.

Change'

Hofschneider and Yumul are campaigning under the slogan, "Change starts with you," referring to voters who would be the driving force behind what they hope is "positive change."

The former speaker said he chose Yumul as running mate

because he is "young and energetic" and brings with him an "extensive experience which the people would like to see in dealing with problems."

"The third is probably the most important request from people—please pick a partner that you can trust and work hard with and I find those things in Mr. Yumul, the senator, and I'm very happy and proud to have him as the lieutenant governor [candidate]," Hofschneider said.

This is Hofschneider's third run for governor, after being a candidate in the 2005 and 2009 elections.

He won the popular vote in 2009 as a Republican but failed to get a majority vote, resulting in the first CNMI runoff election opposite Fitial. Hofschneider lost to Fitial by 370 votes in the runoff race.

During question-and-answer with the media yesterday, Hofschneider was asked about his position on the impeachment process against Fitial because at the time, he wasn't heard from. Hofschneider's response was about the results of the 2009

runoff election.

"In the campaign leading up to the tabulation, the decision in 2009, all of the things that went wrong, I told the people in our campaign that these things will happen—the retirement (fund), the utilities, the hospital, they all came to reality and I lost to Fitial. I respect the mandate of the people when they voted for Fitial and Inos but that is not to say I condone or accept how the election was won," Hofschneider said.

Yumul, meanwhile, previously identified himself with the so-called Independent-Republicans who left the party when Fitial took over it again.

When he was still a member of the House, Yumul was one of the co-authors of two impeachment resolutions against Fitial; the second one succeeded.

Hofschneider, who spent over 16 years as a lawmaker including as a one-term speaker, said public policy has been shaped by political expediency and short-term thinking that he said has a human cost. He said this is evident in the courts, security issues, and economic turmoil.

He also talked about "weak and failed government policies," and high health care and health insurance costs.

"But perhaps more importantly, the people suffer from a lack of confidence in the government's ability to make a positive difference in peoples' lives," he added.

Hofschneider, in responding to media questions, said the high utility rates is a result of the government's inability to pay its utility bills and the 25 percent cut in pension could be addressed if priorities are changed.

When asked why he is no longer running under the Republican Party, he said in his seven-month house-to-house visit, he has come to the conclusion that "people are tired of party politics."

"This is overwhelming message. And so it's not about belonging to a party but believing in the people first is more important and taking care of their concerns," he said.

On the issue of the Commonwealth-only worker program, Hofschneider said the economy revolves around the availability of enough human resources to

run businesses.

"We obviously do not have the human resources to maintain the level of economy that we have. We really have to engage the federal side and have a clearer understanding of the future of CWS," he said.

If the CW program is not extended beyond Dec. 31, 2014, the CNMI loses immediate access to some 10,000 skilled and professional foreign workers.

As to the U.S. Department of Defense's planned expanded use of the islands, Hofschneider said there needs to be a balance between the U.S. military's needs and economic opportunities and CNMI peoples' needs.

Hofschneider also urged government employees to "report political intimidations" and at the same time encouraged people to be involved in the political process without fear of "political consequences or retaliation."

The committee to elect Hofschneider-Yumul is headed by David Attao. Also present at yesterday's announcement were their family, friends, and supporters.

Wage hike for NMC personnel eyed next fiscal year

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Employees of the Northern Marianas College will have something to look forward to in the new fiscal year after a consensus was reached Friday by members of the Board of Regents: that is, to implement a new salary schedule beginning fiscal year 2015.

Board of Regents chair Frank Rabauliman disclosed Friday that a final recommendation on employees' salaries will soon be brought up by the personnel committee, headed

by Juan T. Lizama.

In preliminary discussions on Friday, fiscal committee chair William Torres presented three approaches on how a new salary hike will be enforced. Option 1 recommends a 100 percent one-shot salary hike to be implemented in fiscal year 2015; Option 2 suggests a 50-percent incremental increase, with two years of enforcement; Option 3 recommends that the salary hike be implemented within three years.

"The fiscal committee, after reviewing the documentations from the college, takes the po-

sition that it is perhaps a more reasonable approach to recommend [to the personnel committee] the Option 1 that will provide a 100-percent single shot implementation [of the wage hike]," Torres said Friday.

NMC has two funding sources: appropriation from the Legislature and the revenue it collects from students' tuition and fees.

Among the reasons why the college finds it hard to hire needed personnel is its existing compensation package. Last year, a salary study and a desk audit were conducted with the goal of providing college personnel competitive wages that are not far from peer institutions.

Despite not having on hand all budgetary information for

fiscal year 2015, Torres said his committee is determined to endorse Option 1. He described the plan as "quite ambitious" but "justifiable."

Initially, Torres said, NMC may potentially see a slightly over \$7 million appropriation next fiscal year with the inclusion of the planned salary hike for personnel.

Torres said the board has to give Hart its blessing to advocate and negotiate with the executive and legislative branches for a higher budget for NMC.

"The committee wishes the CEO good tidings in pursuit of Option No. 1," Torres said.

NMC president Dr. Sharon Y. Hart was given the authority Friday to go ahead with the necessary budgetary planning that

will incorporate the proposed salary hike for employees next fiscal year. This will be turned over to the personnel committee for action.

Board members emphasized that the new salary schedule will be dependent on the approval of the fiscal year 2015 appropriation for the college.

NMC is set to submit to Gov. Eloy S. Inos its proposed budget for fiscal year 2015 by end of the month.

According to Rabauliman, despite the reality that NMC has not gotten the amount it wants for its budget even once, he has high hopes that the much-awaited compensation plan for NMC will be realized by fiscal year 2015.

Board vice chair Elaine

Orilla, for her part, reminded her colleagues that "if the money is not there, in reality it will not happen."

But Hart pointed out that not all personnel at the college are funded under local appropriation and cited the president's authority to reprogram college funds when and where it is needed.

Saipan Tribune learned that salaries of NMC employees have been frozen for years as a result of a policy on promotions that was adopted in 1989 but was never implemented.

It will be recalled that despite attempts of previous NMC administrations to adjust employees' wages, the college budget has always prevented the institution from doing it.

NMC 5-year strategic plan OK'd

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Board of Regents has approved the Northern Marianas College's Five-Year Strategic Plan for 2015-2020, which outlines the key strategic approaches the institution seeks to accomplish in the years ahead.

NMC president Dr. Sharon Y. Hart presented the 24-page document to the full board on Friday, highlighting five key goals: increase relevance to the CNMI workforce and community needs; ensure continued accreditation; accelerate time to completion; improve student success and support; and strengthen operations and resource development.



The "NMC Five Year Strategic Plan 2015-2020—Full

Hart

Speed Ahead" paves the road that NMC will travel on and clearly defines every step it will need to take along the way.

According to Hart and board chair Frank Rabauliman, the goals are a very demanding yet achievable set of strategic imperatives aimed at fulfilling the collective vision of stakeholders. When fully implemented, the imperatives will allow NMC to continue to meet its stated mission for its students and the Commonwealth and to maintain a strong accreditation position for the benefit of all, the said.

Hart pointed out that because NMC's planning process always drives budgeting, the plan outlines the direction where the college is going and then obtaining resources to accomplish that plan.

In order to ensure the relevance of its programs and courses, the plan states that

» Five imperatives highlight college plan for 2015-2020

Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education and other regional institutions and will ensure the relevance of developmental curriculum to a student's chosen academic program, among others.

To ensure continued accreditation, NMC will embrace the culture of accreditation using standards and criteria for review and demonstrate effective performance by focusing efforts to follow accreditation standards.

In ensuring students complete on time and do not fall through the cracks, NMC will target time in strategic areas such as reduce the time between a student's entry into NMC and his or her enrollment in a program of study; reduce time-to-degree and increase the number of students completing a two-year or a four-year degree on time; and will reduce time and accelerate success for a student to complete remediation for transition into college credit.

To ensure effective and efficient operations, NMC must achieve the following through a culture fostering organizational entrepreneurship: implement NMC facility master plan; enhance NMC institutional image; sustain a skilled and productive workforce by improving human resource practices; maximize funding opportunities; improve information data system; and enhance financial monitoring and institutional accountability.

PICKS OF THE WEEK



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**MEMORIAL
TRIBUTE**

House Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan) leads the presentation of a copy of a resolution honoring the legacy of former Saipan mayor Jesus "Gere" Sablan Deleon Guerrero, during a CNMI leadership memorial tribute on Thursday. Accepting the resolution is the former mayor's wife, Victoria Alepuyo Deleon Guerrero, and children.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



Senate President Ralph Torres (R-Saipan) leads the Senate presentation of a resolution honoring former Saipan mayor Jesus "Gere" Sablan Deleon Guerrero. Accepting the resolution is the former mayor's wife, Victoria Alepuyo Deleon Guerrero, and children.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Over a hundred college students denied SHEFA grants

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A large volume of college students wanting to avail of Saipan Higher Educational Financial Assistance grants has been rejected after failing to meet the requirements needed to pursue

their spring term studies here and abroad.

As of Feb. 20, SHEFA has denied 114 applications, primarily for not meeting the grade point average requirement and for failing to satisfy the credits required by the end of the term, according to SHEFA adminis-

trator Merissa S. Rasa.

The number of denied applications may still increase in the coming weeks pending the review of all applications for spring 2014 semester.

Rasa said there remains 781 pending applica-

Approval or denial of these applications is contingent on the supporting documents to be submitted by the students, which are due on Feb. 28.

SHEFA provides financial awards for grand-in-aid, field of study, and performance-based or incentive award.

» **'SHEFA's fiscal year 2014 \$3M budget remains intact'**

For undergraduate students and field of study, the requirement is 2.5 cumulative GPA. For performance-based scholarships, the requirement is 3.5 GPA. For graduate and advanced students, the SHEFA requirement is "pass or no pass grading."

In her report to the board Thursday, Rasa indicated that SHEFA received 1,237 applications for the spring 2014 term. Of this, 27 are students of the Northern Marianas Trade Institute while the rest are from the Northern Marianas College and other universi-

ties and colleges abroad.

The applications for spring 2014 term include 305 new students; 80 returning recipients; and 852 ongoing students.

As of Thursday, Rasa has completed reviewing 456 applications, of which 342 have been approved and 114 were denied.

Saipan Tribune learned that of the 1,237 applications received, 721 are marked "pending," awaiting supporting documents. As of last week, one student has appealed the denial while two were deferred.

\$3M intact

Rasa disclosed that SHEFA's budget for its scholarship awards

for the current fiscal year remains intact at \$3 million.

What the office is using to provide financial assistance for spring is the remaining portion of the fiscal year 2013 budget appropriated by the Legislature.

She said the total amount distributed so far for spring 2014 is \$697,000 and there remains about \$300,000 in lapsed funds under the fiscal year 2013 account.

"We haven't touched the \$3 million budget for fiscal year 2014," said Rasa, adding that SHEFA received last week three of the six batches of check requests from the Department of Finance.

UOG Regional Sustainability Conference on April 15-16

The University of Guam Center for Island Sustainability will host its 5th Regional Conference on Island Sustainability on April 15–16, 2014, at the Hyatt Regency Guam.

The two-day conference's theme is "Concept to Implementation: Achieving a Sustainable Community." Topics covered will include sustainable environments; climate change and energy; sustainable land use and regional management; technical innovations for sustainable production and consumption; leadership for sustainable development; entrepreneurial opportunities for sustainable solutions; and corporate social

responsibility.

"There is a lot to offer at this year's conference: an excellent lineup of speakers, engaging workshops, and an exhibit filled with dedicated organizations and companies, and plenty of opportunities for networking," said Dr. John Peterson, assistant vice president and UOG Center for Island Sustainability director.

The keynote speaker for the conference is Ronald Jumeau, Seychelles Ambassador for Climate Change and Small Is-

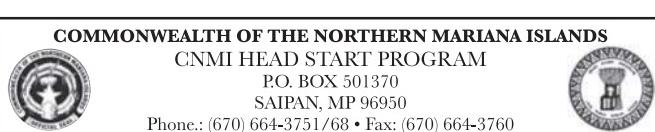
land Developing States issues. Jumeau started his career as a journalist and later became chief editor of the *Seychelles Nation* daily newspaper before

he became Secretary to the Cabinet in the Office of the President of Seychelles and also served as Seychelles Minister for Environment and Natural Resources. In 2007, Jumeau was

assigned to New York as the Seychelles Permanent Representative to the United Nations and Ambassador to the United States, Canada, Brazil, Cuba



Jean Jumeau



Head Start Policy Council Meeting Agenda

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, the Head Start Policy Council hereby gives notice that it will have a Regular Meeting on Thursday, February 27, 2014 at 6:00 p.m., Oleai Head Start Resource Center, Oleai, Saipan.

- I. Preliminary Matters
 - 1. Call to Order
 - 2. Roll Call
 - 3. Quorum
 - 4. Adoption of Agenda
 - 5. Adoption of Minutes of January 24, 2014

II. Public Comments

- 1. From the State Board of Education
- 2. From the Office of Head Start

IV. Monthly Reports

- 1. Director
- 2. Child Outcomes
- 3. Finance Director
- 4. Center Representatives

V. Old Business

- 1. Updates
 - a. Tanapag Center Fencing Project
 - b. FY 2012 Audit

VI. New Business

- 1. 2014 Poverty Guideline
- 2. Fresh Fruits and Vegetables Program
- 3. Action Item
 - a. Approval of Parent Activity Funds for Saipan, Rota and Tinian Centers

VII. Miscellaneous Matters

VIII. Executive Session

IX. Next Meeting

X. Adjournment

This meeting is open to the public, interested individuals are welcome to attend. Any person(s) requiring special accommodations may contact Mrs. Candace Q. Celis at (670) 664-3761 or email address at candace.celis@cnmips.org, several days notice is required.

/s/Roy Ada
Chairperson

¹ Pursuant to BOE Policy 0415, public comments are limited to 30 minutes. We ask that remarks be limited to 3 minutes each. Everyone is welcome to submit written comments.

² Pursuant to CMC § 9912, the Council may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

 COMMUNITY BRIEFS

MHS PTSA meeting on Wednesday

All Marianas High School parents, guardians, and students are invited to attend the MHS PTA meeting this Wednesday Feb. 26, 2014, at 6:30pm in the MHS Dolphin Theatre. We will get an update on MHS administration, programs, and future events with reports from Student Council and the Parent Advisory Council meeting. Show your support for your Mighty Dolphin and their school by being an active member of the MHS PTA. (PR)

NMC, BECQ at Saipan chamber meeting

The next General Membership Meeting of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce is scheduled for next week Wednesday, March 5, at the Pacific Islands Club Charley's Cabaret. Luncheon begins at 11:30am and meeting starts at 12pm.

The Chamber will receive presentations from the Northern Marianas College, with updates on their recent accreditation and workforce development efforts. The second presenter will be the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality on stormwater runoff pollution and plans to clean drainages and information on source pollution remedies.

For reservations, call the Chamber at 233-7150 or email coordinator@saipanchamber.com. Luncheon cost for members is at \$20; for non-members and the public, the cost is \$30. (SCC)

John Gonzales LIVE schedule

John Gonzales LIVE will have back-to-back shows on Wednesday, Feb. 26 on local TV Channel 14.

The first topic, "Safe & Orderly Schools," will be from 6:30pm to 7:30pm. Guests include Glenn Muna, PSS associate commissioner for administration (SOS Committee); Yvonne Pangelinan, principal, San Vicente Elementary (SOS Committee); and Jack Diaz (SOS Committee).

The second topic, "Tanapag Fuel Farm FUDS," will be from 7:30pm to 8:30pm. Guests include Helen Take moto, Army Corps of Engineers, Honolulu District; Tom Maruyama, ACOE; Derek Yasaka, ACOE Contractor, WCP Consulting; Chris Vias, ACOE Contractor, WCP; and Ray Masga, BECQ DEQ.

The show will be live on Feb. 26, with replays on Monday, March 3, and Tuesday, March 4, both from 6:30pm to 7:30pm and 7:30pm to 8:30pm.

The show also rebroadcasts on www.betelnutradio.com.

To participate in the discussions, email (johngonzaleslive@gmail.com), call (287-9413), or text (670-285-META or 6382). (PR)


GROUP DONATION

The Sto. Nino Group Saipan donated \$1,000 to the Sagip Kapamilya Foundation of ABS-CBN to help the victims of the Bohol earthquake and Typhoon Yolanda in Leyte. The money came from the fundraising campaign the group had through caroling in December 2013 headed by head coordinator Alex T. Nario.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

ARS Receipt			Page 1 of 1		
RJCL Corporation DBA RNV Construction					
Agent ID : 7967	Remittance ID : 26887185	Product : Rapid Remit	Amount : USD 1,000.00	Service Charge : 11.00	Total : 1,011.00
Reference Number : 145000012234482165					
REMITTER PARTICULARS					
SANTO NINO GROUP SAIPAN C/O MIL ALEXANDRO T. NARIO / P.O. BOX 5631794 KODLER VILLE SAIPAN MP, 96950 NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS MICROSOFT WORD 2007 BAG - 7109					
BENEFICIARY PARTICULARS					
ABS-CBN FOUNDATION INC. SAGIP KAPAMILYA PNB TIMOG QUEZON CITY Philippines 0.00					
FX RATES					
Net to Beneficiary : USD 1,000.00					
BENEFICIARY ACCOUNT					
Branch Code : 1219					
Account No : 419539508073					
DATE CREATED			STATUS		
January 22, 2014			Approved		
CREATED BY					
RUEDA, ROLANDO					
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House OKs penalties for owners of abandoned Saipan properties

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Owners of abandoned, blighted, and vacant properties on Saipan could be subjected to penalties of up to \$1,000 per day, among other things, if they do not act on second and subsequent government warnings, once a bill that the House of Representatives passed on Wednesday becomes law.

Members debated Rep. Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero's (Ind-Saipan) House Bill 18-71 or the Nuisance Abatement and Blighted Property Maintenance Act of 2013 before acting on the main motion to pass it.

Vice speaker Frank Dela

Cruz (Ind-Saipan), for example, said the bill seems to legislate common sense since maintaining one's own property should be common sense.

Dela Cruz said it is also "not fair" to penalize private property owners up to \$1,000 a day, and not penalize the government for not doing something about its vacant and also blighted properties.

"[Private] folks couldn't even cut the grasses [on their property], and then we ask them to pay \$1,000 a day. I think we should go back to the drawing board and reassess this legislation," he said during debate.

House Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan) said

the bill's intention is good, adding that perhaps the Legislature can set aside more resources to the Division of Parks and Recreation, for example, to be able to clean up and maintain a lot of the government properties not currently in use.

The bill passed by a vote of 17-0 with Rep. Christopher Leon Guerrero (Cov-Saipan) voting "present" and two absences.

HB 18-71, House Draft 1, House Substitute 1 now goes to the Senate for action.

Over the years, Saipan has seen a lot of abandoned, blighted, and vacant properties that create increased safety and security risks to the community,

including unsecured or open doors and windows, broken water pipes, theft of metals and other materials, overgrowth of grass, weeds, shrubs and bushes, illegal dumping, and rodent and vermin activity.

Neglect devalues these properties and causes deterioration in residential, industrial and commercial areas.

The biggest risk that blighted properties present to the community is safety risks, according to the bill because they "create a haven for crime."

Under the bill, the Commonwealth Zoning administrator is required to issue a warning notice to any violator 60 days be

fore any penalties are imposed.

When a warning is issued and is not acted upon, penalties begin to accrue including a minimum of \$200 fine and any other penalties authorized under CNMI law for the first offense.

Second and subsequent offenses are subject to penalties of up to \$1,000 per day, among other things.

Fines and penalties collected are to be transmitted to the Finance secretary for deposit in a separate property maintenance revolving fund account within Finance. This fund will be available for use by the Commonwealth Zoning Office without further appropriation.



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality

Division of Coastal Resources Management
P.O. Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950 • Tel: (670) 664-8300; Fax: (670) 664-8315
www.crm.gov.mp

NOTICE OF APPLICATION

February 25, 2014

THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF COASTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE CRM OFFICES:

APPLICANT	DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED	APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TYPE	STATUS
1. Fiesta Resort & SPA Saipan	11/27/2013 SSm-2012-X-073(A)	Temporary Beach Activities	Garapan	Amendment	Approved (02/06/2014)*
2. Pacific Marine	01/24/2014 SPIm-2014-X-007	Dry Dock	South Seaplane Dock	Ports & Industrial APC	Approved (01/31/2014)*
3. Pacific Marine	01/28/2014 SPIm-2014-X-008	Dry Dock	South Seaplane Dock	Ports & Industrial APC	Approved (01/31/2014)*
4. Kuentai Saipan	02/11/2014 SSm-2014-X-009	Excavation	Tanapag	Shoreline APC	Under Review
5. Ocean Masta, LLC	02/18/2014 S/TLRm-2014-X-010	Scuba Diving Operation	Saipan & Tinian	Lagoon & Reef APC	Under Review
6. Time Creation Corporate	02/18/2014 SLRm-2014-X-011	Scuba Diving Operation	Saipan	Lagoon & Reef APC	Under Review

Publication of the above list is in accordance with CRM Regulations, which require all permit applications to be published in a local newspaper within 15 days of receipt of application. The list reflects recently received permit applications and those with a recent change in status. New applications are marked with an asterisk (*).

The Public is invited to submit written comments regarding any of the above projects for which a permit decision has not been issued. All permit comments should identify the project by application number. Your comments should be mailed or hand-delivered to the CRM Office. All persons who desire a public hearing regarding any project may do so by submitting a written request for a public hearing to the CRM Office within fourteen (14) days for minor permits (APCs) and proposed amended major sitings. Public Hearings are required for all new major siting projects. All public hearing notices are published in a local newspaper of general circulation. Residents of Rota and Tinian may submit comments and hearing requests to their local CRM Coordinator. Persons wishing to retain the right to appeal a CRM Permit decision must file a notice of appeal with the CRM office within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the CRM permit decision as provided in Part 200 § 15-10-235 of the CRM Regulations.

MVA reaches out to 48,000 at Japan Golf Fair

Resort golfing on Saipan and Rota was promoted by the Marianas Visitors Authority at the 2014 Japan Golf Fair held on Feb. 14-16, 2014, at Tokyo Big Sight. Nearly 48,000 consumers, golf business representatives, and media representatives participated in the three-day event.

"Visitors who come to the Northern Marianas to golf typically spend more money at the destination than other sports enthusiasts," said MVA marketing manager Bruce Bateman. "As we have done since 2005, we continue to promote our golf-

ing opportunities at the annual Japan Golf Fair. We have also been expanding our promotions to develop new golf markets in other source countries, including China."

The MVA operated an information booth during the fair where they distributed brochures about golf courses and other tourism attractions in the Northern Mariana Islands. However, Bateman noted participation was down 14 percent this year compared to 2013 due to a record snowstorm in the area.

Next year's fair is slated for Feb. 13-15, 2015. (MVA)



The Marianas Visitors Authority joined the 2013 Japan Golf Fair on Feb. 14-16, 2014, to promote golf and other tourist attractions in the Northern Mariana Islands. The fair was held at Tokyo Big Sight and was attended by nearly 48,000 consumers, business golf reps, and media.

MVA

Monitoring climate change in nat'l parks, monuments

The Asia Pacific Academy of Sciences, Science Education, and Environmental Management, or APASEEM, and the U.S. National Park Service are inviting the public to a presentation this week on the current "hot topic" of climate change. A visiting expert in this field

who is on island, Ph.D. candidate David B. Simeral, will be sharing recent findings and explaining monitoring methods and apparatuses being deployed nationwide to better observe and document climate change throughout the U.S. national park and monuments.

Simeral is from the Western Regional Climate Center (www.wrcc.dri.edu/) and will talk about how climate monitoring works, what the WRCC does as part of this, and how the station at American Memorial Park fits into the global effort to understand climate conditions.

The discussion occurs on Wednesday, Feb. 26, 2014, at the American Memorial Park auditorium, beginning at 6pm. The talk will be accompanied by multimedia presentations, along with a question-and-answer dialogue afterwards. As always at APASEEM events, questions from local scientists and the public are greatly encouraged.

For more information about the upcoming talk, contact Justin Mills of the NPS at justin_s_mills@nps.gov or John Furey of APASEEM at jfurey@saipan.com.

More information about the monitoring project is available at: <http://www.wrcc.dri.edu/nps/> and <http://science.nature.nps.gov/IM/inventory/climate/index.cfm>. For accommodation or more information (assisted listening devices, etc), contact the park at (670) 234-7207. (APASEEM)

FOA presents Broadway musical 'Rent'

The Friends of the Arts is pleased to announce its upcoming production of *Rent*, the rock musical, with music and lyrics by Jonathan Larson. The play is based on Giacomo Puccini's opera *La Bohème*. The award winning musical tells the story of a group of impoverished young artists and musicians struggling to survive and create in New York City's Lower East Side, living the bohemian life in the early days of HIV/AIDS.

Performed both off- and on-Broadway, the show won a Pulitzer Prize and, later, a Tony Award for Best Musical. The Broadway production closed on Sept. 7, 2008, after a 12-year run of 5,123 performances, the ninth longest-running Broadway show at the time. (FOA)

The FOA performance, under the direction of Leo Goode and the music direction of Paul Dujua, and with a talented local cast, will bring to Saipan the bohemian lifestyle of New York and the fear and acceptance of HIV/AIDS.

Rent will have three performances: Feb. 28, March 1, and March 2, at PIC's Charley's Cabaret. All three shows will start at 7pm.

Ticket cost is \$15 for a non-FOA adult, \$12 for a FOA member adult and \$8 for students, to include college students and children over age 4.

Tickets can be purchased from Frank Gibson at 287-7476 or fllibson@yahoo.com, or from Susan Fishman-Tudor and 287-7476 or susanftudor@mac.com. (FOA)

The BECQ is looking forward to a repeat success on Saturday, so join BECQ's monthly cleanup brigade and "Pick It Up!" Let's work together for the health of our coral reefs and cleanliness of our beaches for everyone to enjoy.

For more information about volunteering, contact the BECQ office at 664-8500/1. (BECQ)

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

February 25, 2006

Micronesian Games is a go

After weeks of uncertainty, disappointment, hope, and feverish planning, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial announced yesterday afternoon that the CNMI's on-again, off-again love affair with the 2006 Micronesian Games is officially on again. During his weekly media conference at the Governor's Office on Capitol Hill, Fitial said he had already sent a letter off to Micronesian Games Council president William Keldermans and the Palau National Olympic Committee that, in effect, rescinded his previous communication to cancel the CNMI's hosting duties. In the letter, Fitial said that he had the assurance of credible private sector volunteers and financial contributors that Saipan will host the games with the understanding that the financial cost to the CNMI will be substantially borne by our private sector, given the severe financial weakness of our local government.

MVA gets free office in Manila

For one year, the Marianas Visitors Authority will have a marketing office in Manila free of charge, courtesy of Pacific Telecom Inc. MVA marketing manager Wayne Pangalinan said PTI had volunteered to open the office and shoulder its operational expenses for one year. After such time, MVA can choose whether to continue operating the office or not. This arrangement, according to Pangalinan, was approved by the MVA board in a meeting last year. Pangalinan said MVA will not spend for the Manila office unless for programs that are approved by the agency.

February 25, 2007

Constant blackouts hit Rota

Unannounced blackouts lasting for several hours hit most of Rota almost on a daily basis this past week, causing damages to home and office appliances and disrupting people's activities, said its local residents. "We have a big problem here. The power situation has been very unreliable. Last night, the power went off at 10pm and it didn't come back until 10:30am this morning [Saturday]," said Rota Sen. Paul A. Manglona in an interview yesterday. He said this power interruption has been the trend in the past days and even in previous weeks.

Stayman greeted by Dekada, hails taxi cab

Was he just avoiding the crowd? Or was he in a real rush? Hurrying to leave the premises of the Francisco C. Ada International Airport upon his arrival yesterday, former Office of Insular Affairs director Allen Stayman hailed a taxi cab, but was dissuaded only when a host had appeared to pick him up. A much-anticipated island guest Stayman, who works for the powerful U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, came out of the arrival's exit door at about 3pm. With him was fellow staffer Josh Johnson.

February 25, 2008

Local GOP endorses McCain

All nine delegates from the local Republican Party will support John McCain's candidacy for president of the United States. This marks the first time the Commonwealth GOP is participating in any U.S. election, as the group was admitted to the national Republican Party after the 2004 election. "I think John McCain is the most qualified person for the job," said national representative Roman "Bo" Palacios. "He knows the islands. He's a leader in economic revival and he has the commitment to win the war."

Govendo urges lawmakers to regulate attorney's fees

Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo has urged lawmakers to pass a legislation that seeks to prevent inflated attorney's fees for all lawyers involved in estate's probate proceedings. "It might be now time for the Legislature to regulate attorney's fees of those lawyers involved in the estate," Govendo said. The judge stressed the need for such regulation during Friday's hearing in the controversial Angel Malite estate in which he appointed two new estate administrators—Jimmy G. Sablan and Esther Fejeran Sound. Govendo noted that every time there is a big estate probate in the CNMI there's always trouble because it's always about attorney's fees instead of following the deceased's will and the heirs' best interest.

Island Snapshots



ALL ABOUT REEFS

Acting Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas Lori Faeth, left, and Assistant Administrator for NOAA Fisheries Eileen Sobeck, listen as Gov. Eloy S. Inos delivers remarks at the opening of the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force winter meeting on Feb. 20 at the U.S. Department of the Interior Auditorium in Washington, DC. Faeth and Sobeck served as this year task force co-chairs.

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR



GOP GOVERNORS

Gov. Eloy S. Inos is congratulated and welcomed to the Republican Governors Association (RGA) by New Jersey Gov. and RGA Chairman Chris Christie, center, and Nebraska Gov. Dave Heineman, left.

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR



NEW CUC BOARD

Acting governor Jude U. Hofsneider, center, front row, joins a group photo after administering the oath of office to Adelina Roberto, third from left, front row, and David J. Sablan Jr., third from right, front row, to serve on the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. board of directors, during a ceremony on Friday. Also in photo are Sablan and Roberto's family and friends, members of the House Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications and other government officials.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



VOCATIONAL REHAB

At the end of their first general membership meeting on Feb. 6, 2014 at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan, members and officers of the CNMI Statewide Independent Living Council led by chair Consolacion Atalig and representatives from the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation headed by director Arlene Yamagata, M.S., C.R.C., obliged for a group photo. Clockwise from left: Lourdes Atalig (OVR fiscal officer), Barbara Cabrera (OVR ILOB case worker assistant), Elvira Seman (OVR administrative assistant), Consolacion Atalig (SILC chairperson), Avery Hocog (SILC Rota representative), Gernadine Camacho (SILC vice chairperson), Arlene Yamagata, M.S., C.R.C. (OVR director), Tom Thornburgh (SILC member), Jimmy Sablan (former SILC secretary), Stephen Dutro, Jr. (former SILC chairperson), Emeterio Fitial (SILC secretary), Estella Cabaobas (SILC parliamentarian), and Lydia Igital, CNMI-CLI executive director (SILC fiscal officer).

OFFICE OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION



The CNMI Statewide Independent Living Council and Office of Vocational Rehabilitation held a brief ceremony on Feb. 6, 2014, at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan to recognize and appreciate the valuable contributions of its former officers Stephen Dutro, Jr., chair (left) and Jimmy G. Sablan, secretary (right). Both Dutro and Sablan served six years on the Council and were instrumental in advocating for and promoting the independent living program for individuals with disabilities in the Commonwealth. Also in photo are the SILC's newest members: Avery Hocog representing Rota and Thomas Thornburgh representing an organization providing protection and advocacy services to people with disabilities.

OFFICE OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

Opinion

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Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

The thugs in N. Korea

Rarely has any United Nations panel issued as powerful an indictment against any regime in the world as the report made public last week condemning the murderous government of North Korea's Kim Jong Un.

The report contained a harrowing catalog of inhuman practices used by North Korea's rulers to stay in power and keep the country's 24 million people in a state of unending fear: "extermination, murder, enslavement, torture, imprisonment, rape."

As if that were not enough, starvation has often been the lot of powerless North Koreans wholly dependent on the government for sustenance, particularly those in the countryside.

Deprived of all human rights, including the right to live, anyone suspected of dissent is cast into prison camps where some 200,000 people are believed to be held under the most horrible conditions imaginable. Many never leave.



The 36-page report and a 372-page annex criticize the political and security apparatus of the state, describing the frequent resort to public executions and other despicable practices "to terrorize the population into submission."

A U.N.-appointed panel headed by retired Australian Judge Michael Donald Kirby delivered the report to the U.N. Human Rights Council last week after a yearlong investigation. Mr. Kirby said his panel would recommend that the U.N. Security Council

refer the situation in North Korea to the International Criminal Court to make Kim Jong Un and members of his thugocracy face trial.

Unfortunately, that's unlikely to happen—and North Korea's brutal state won't change—because its ally and benefactor, China, holds a Security Council veto. But even so, this authoritative report of the regime's crimes against humanity is a step forward for advocates of North Korean human rights. As Mr. Kirby noted, the report means the world can no longer say, We didn't know. Now everyone knows.

Barring Security Council action, the next best thing is for the U.N. Human Rights Council to create a structure to monitor human-rights practices in North Korea and issue periodic reports in the hope that, sooner or later, the regime gets the message: The world is watching—and may one day hold those responsible accountable for their crimes.

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Why 9/11 can happen again

By GARY HART and NORMAN AUGUSTINE
LOS ANGELES TIMES

In February 2001, a bipartisan federal commission on which we served warned that terrorists would acquire weapons of mass destruction and mass disruption. "Attacks against American citizens on American soil, possibly causing heavy casualties, are likely over the next quarter-century," the Hart-Rudman Commission said. "In the face of this threat, our nation has no coherent or integrated governmental structures." We added: "Congress should rationalize its current committee structure so that it best serves U.S. national security objectives."

We identified 50 ways to improve national security, none of which was implemented before 9/11. One recommendation—to create a single agency to deal with homeland security—was not acted on until a year and a half after those tragic attacks.

One particularly consequential recommendation has been altogether ignored. Congress has failed to "review its structure systematically in light of likely 21st century security challenges," a critical step needed "to ensure both that important issues receive sufficient attention and oversight and the unnecessary duplication of effort by multiple committees is minimized."

Put bluntly, congressional oversight of homeland security remains an organizational maze. Instead of doing what our group and the 9/11 Commission recommended, Congress has made matters worse. After the creation of the Department of Homeland Security, oversight was claimed by 79 committees and subcommittees, but that number has expanded to at least 108.

No major company could function with that kind of structure, and neither can the third-largest federal department. As former Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff said, "When many voices speak, it's like no voice speaks."

Virtually everyone who has examined the matter agrees about the need to streamline congressional supervision of homeland security. Since the 9/11 Commission made it a central recommendation, reports from think tanks such as the Heritage Foundation and the Brookings Institution have concurred, as did the Sunnylands-Aspen Institute task force, a group of national security experts that met last year and included 9/11 Commission Chairmen Thomas Kean and Lee Hamilton.

Because Congress has spurned this chorus of qualified counsel, the country remains unprepared to thwart some of the same kinds of terrorist attacks that we warned about in the pre-9/11 days. Amid concerns about a cyberattack on the power grid, air-traffic control system or financial sector, the seven congressional committees that claim jurisdiction over cyber security can't even agree on whether

er responsibility for the issue should reside in the Department of Homeland Security or elsewhere.

There are other areas of vulnerability. For example, when you fly on a major airline from a major airport, you, your shoes, laptop and luggage are screened by the Transportation Security Administration. But there isn't necessarily such screening if you board a private jet at Teterboro Airport in New Jersey, just a dozen miles from Manhattan, or any number of small airports across the United States. A potential hijacker could walk through the terminal straight to the plane. And as Adm. Thad Allen, a former commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard, notes, when a small boat enters one of the harbors adjoining our nation's cities, whether it be Los Angeles, New York, Seattle, Galveston, Texas, or others, those responsible for national security can't readily determine to whom it is registered or what is in its hold.

Nor are these means of carrying danger onto our shores the full extent of the problem. As former Sen. Bob Graham of Florida, who headed a commission on weapons of mass destruction from 2008 to 2010, noted in the Sunnylands-Aspen report, the list of biohazards, including substances that could kill before we become aware that they are in our air or water, hasn't been prioritized.

Unlike most stories about Congress not working well, this isn't a saga of left versus right, Republicans versus Democrats. Reports from across the political spectrum have described the status quo as "byzantine," "wasteful" and "dysfunctional." Republican-appointed Homeland Security Secretaries Tom Ridge and Michael Chertoff and Democrat-appointed Janet Napolitano have all indicated that fragmented oversight makes it more difficult for the department to do its job.

The reason for congressional inaction is as simple as it is sad. As noted by the Center for Strategic and International Studies/Business Executives for National Security task force, Congress has "protected prerogative and privilege at the expense of a rational, streamlined committee structure. The result is a Department of Homeland Security that is hamstrung by a system of congressional oversight that drains departmental energy and invites managerial circumvention."

A refrain emerged after 9/11: Why hadn't the media, Congress and the president paid more attention to the warnings and recommendations of the Hart-Rudman report?

To that question we would now add: Must the country suffer another devastating, potentially preventable attack before more of its turf-protecting elected representatives forgo "prerogative and privilege" for the sake of our nation's security?

Gary Hart is a lawyer and former senator from Colorado; Norman Augustine, a retired aerospace executive, was undersecretary of the Army from 1975 to 1977. They wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Pilean Gobietnu Siha

Sige mañgahulu' offisiatmente na'an siha kumu pilean para kandidatun primet yan segundo gobietnu. Esta i Independent yan Democrat gai kandidatu. I republican mapta' dos sa' guaha otru gai interes malagu gi papa' parehu bandera. Otru estrakadan sanhalom ni debi umasatba. Satbayun mohon pat mas ha' gi ti amtiyuñ na geran sanhalom?

Makat i republican na u huchum pettaña gi hilu' proteksion i matatachofig na gobietnu solu gaige ennau gi aregloña by-laws. Sin este, debi u guaha mafanana'an "praimeri" (primary) para u guaha fotmat na disision pattida haye offisitamente kandidatun republican para gobietnu.

Este i praimeri mampos gastu yan tane' gi pattida ya sumen fotte na balan para man-yamag 'sino disgrana. Haf' na mapga' inetnon fanihu gi sabana. Ileghu na kase estague' uttimu biahe na dinaña republican intaktu. U machalapon deste pa'gu gi ridun estrakadan praimeri.

Guaha gi tropa esta kalu timoña, fatigau, gamla', naufragu, yan kansadu kakagoñgña. I teteñan i uttimu na biba yan rinikohen balutan despedida. Unu u fanutuhun mientras i pumalu man-maliñgu kulan sague' ma'ten tasi. Lau mapede pat mangana, estague' naturat na estrakadan politika.

Planun Satbasion

Gi halom rimulinun yinilulog halom fache' aplacha' enteru iya Marianas, obligau kada unu ni dumeklara intensioña malagu para gobietnu na u esplika publikamente haf' planuña satbasion asuntun linahayan siha. Hombre nefikanu' tatnai mapapañot sin mañgañgas. Pues, parehu yan asuntun linahyan i ta sasañgan.

Haf' planun miyu pot ma-utut 25 pot sientu na pagamientun manritirau, kumahulu' apas insurance hinemu' ni tat familia ti nina' gagalileg pa'gu, bira birada na hatsadan kandet yan mamamaila' na hatsadan presiun fektus siha? Debi in' eppe este yan otru siha asuntun familia gi hilu' sensian integredat (integrity) yan diberas na planun satbasion.

Yangin para in' pinu' "biba" yan otru siha eskusu, nahoñg na pinadese esta gi tautau. Klaru na planun satbasion mananañga pa'gu. Na la agañg fan finu' miyu kosake todus u mahuñgog kau akseptau

hinasson miyu fuera ke in' ta'lon muna' mamtu' hagas dinage siha deste alacha.

Achu' gi kanton tasi

Gi santatte na patte giya Pagan, guaha 'nos kuantos man-loka' achu' gi kanton tanu'. Deste antigun na tiempu pinanag mattirun lañgat 'nai adumididi' timipa ya sige dumalalai. Un' dia siempre u basnag halom gi tasi gigon limachai' pisuña gi troñku.

Taiguine finapos maseha haye na kabayerun politika. 'An ti sen mauleg disposition-mu, siempre adumididi' matgan i inai siha gi pisun adeñgmu. Sige poduñg adumididi' estake poduñg hau gi tohgeom. Naturat na pañgpañg mañglu' gi halom lañgat diskuidu.

Esta namatman sa' hanom fumofuñg ayu na achu' lau tinemba 'nai tinipa todū inaiña gi fondu. Naturat na sinisede kontodu finapos tautau.

Parehu yan un' hagas masegat na lahe ni adumididi' maliñgu sensin tatautauña piot 'nai sige umamku'. Naturat un' tinilaika na ti siña tachoma'.

Dispuses de todū, taya' sosobia fuera ke bailan fayao pot para un' huchum i uttimu pahinan leblomu publikamente.

Otru asunto' ta siha

Esta i amiguñu monhayu ha aregla calendariuña sentada yan gimen ni para umaplanta ni pattida siha. Mampos magof sa' eleksion gobietnu na sakau 'nai mas paire i plantadan boka yan kantidan gimen. "Haspog-yu' ta'lu pot siete mesis na tiempu!" Dios miu!

Umasuda'yu' yan un' botadot ni umeyag man-laime kandidatu. "Haye malagu' ni botuhu, pega papa' paradaña ya ta akompara yan otru siha kandidatu". Esta hana' matmanyu' kau taiguine pa'gu politikan i tanu'. Pot fabot!

Sige dos amigu gumimen gi pantalan Susupe. 'Nai esta kulan maipe, ha yute'gue' i unu para una' freskun ñaihongue'. Gi kinakulo'ña, ha lagnos petnan manog ya sige ha ñigagas. Finaisen ni amiguñu manu 'nai masuetegue' chesaña. Ilegña, "Duru mangupot gihe papa'".

I know all of you are well aware of the public discussion on the legalization of marijuana and the economic potential it offers but it still seems most of you can't get your minds off casinos or anything else and the rest are just lost and don't know what to do, I guess. You were supposed to have been looking for solutions to our economic needs and alternatives to casinos ever since the people voted no in 2008 and here we are eight years later on the same subject, it's ridiculous! Need I remind you that the impeachment was also about changing direction from the course Gov. Fitial had us on, which was for casinos. The people not only wanted Fitial out, they wanted *nothing* to do with his plans for casinos that got us *nowhere*! We the people have been forced to endure the stupidity of casino talk with every excuse possible and now it's the 25 percent. Heller!

The casino advocates finally got an excuse with a group big enough among the retirees to hopefully get their way. But it is not going to work because even retirees know we can't depend on our government anymore. Look at how the people who are owed land compensation have been shafted for decades because the casino was first proposed to pay them off but now it's the Fund. Who do you think you are fooling? Cer-

tainly not the voters anymore. They passed the e-casino bill for one investor to save the Fund, they are borrowing \$120 million for the Fund, and now they want to force casinos on us for the Fund. I am willing to bet the joke is going to be on our politicians in November because voters can't be falling for this mess.

Voters have seen other states increase their revenues in the hundreds of millions from legalizing marijuana and voters have heard the President's push for marijuana reforms. Voters can see how much the legalization of marijuana can do to turn our economy around and yet none of you have uttered one word for or against the idea. Voters haven't forgotten the proposed ferry service that would take tourists from Saipan to the Tinian Dynasty and take tourists from Guam to the Rota Resort's casino but not one word, even though the study was supposed to have been out in November 2013 according to the governor but we all know he wants casinos so the ferry service dies.

We the people did not elect you to be followers of the administration but to create a check on the administration and be representatives of and for the people. Have you forgotten the creed you are

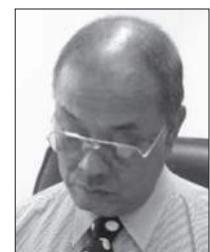
growing up. It's true that at times he would say some far out things. For instance, he once told me that Ben Grimm, the Thing from the Fantastic Four comics, was buried in a cave in Marpi during the '70s. It was strange but I was glad he knew who the Thing was, unlike my parents at the time. It was a way for us to connect.

In this day and age of political correctness, where there are national campaigns to stop the usage of words like handicapped and retard to describe people, I find it disheartening that words like crazy and insane are finding their way back into our media. My belief is that the use of these words creates a stigma, a mental or physical mark that is characteristic of a defect or disease, to our community members who are seeking treatment for mental health. Furthermore, it can also create a barrier for those who are seeking the help they need, because they don't want to be associated with that group. In addition, others may face discrimination when it comes to employment or community living as a result of their diagnosis.

In my professional career, I have grown to understand that mental illnesses comes in many diverse forms, ranging from

By JOHN DELROSARIO
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.



'Nai ha yute'gue' amiguñu, ha fagcha'e natata na lugat ni miachu'. Ensegidas ha birague' hulu' mayamag todū matañia. Finaisen haf' masusede, ilegña, "Lapekaras pare todū esta man-bulachu". Ai, chatkatkula ni lugat.

Tres man-bachet yan tañga man-masoda' gi fihon un' tautau ni mapunu'. Man-mafaisen ni polisia kau siha pumunu' i tautau, ensegidas man-man-oppe, "Yes, yes, yes!"

Man-mafaisen haf' na mapunu' i prohimu, man-man-oppe ta'lū, "For twenty-five cents for twenty-five cents".

Ilegña i polisia na debi u fan mapresu ensegidas. Mayagai siha ta'lū, "The sooner the better, the sooner the better". Man-makotma lau dispuses man-dinispsensa ni kotte pot probleman niha.

Humalom un' faye gi sagan soba 'nai umafagcha' yan amiguñu ni ha didibi mauleg na kantida. Kahulu' i amiguñu malag i chikofike' ya ha dandan, "Kau un' hahassu ha'yu". Chumaleg i prohimu. Kahulu' dispuses ya ha yemi', "Kau un' susuñgun ha'yu". Tapbla.

Galagun Guma'

Este galagun guma' mauleg na guatdia yan paire na amiguñu familia. Guaha 'nai humauhau' an guaha otru galagu gi oriya. 'Sino, umesalau para u fan espanta ni man-malolofan ni ti tautau guma'. Gigan humuyuñg hau, ha chaole dadalagña ya finanu'e hau na fiertgue' gi familia.

Guaha na esalauña pot ga'ga', guaha lokue' pot tautau gi oriya. Ti parehu modun hauhauña entre otru galagu yan tautau gi oriya. Aguaguat mampos esalauña. Señat na mauleg un' rikonose kau guaha bisita 'sino ti mauleg na muron umuririya.

sworn to uphold because you can't respect the no decision of and by the people? It is not your prerogative to change our minds for us because the people should approve or disapprove the casino. Your political careers could be doomed in November. The people are not stupid, because they can see the source of political favors for government bids, the e-gaming and casinos that appears to all is meant for only one investor. Voters now know and can see other states have proven there is a real alternative to casinos in the legalization of marijuana. A ferry service to the existing casinos is another real alternative to Saipan casinos. Our leaders in the Legislature need to come out of the closet on marijuana legalization or quit because we need leaders who will lead on all the issues!

P.S.: The legalization of marijuana is a great example of the silent and safe politics of our leaders that I have often talked about. Now I hope every voter can see their silence on a key issue that could turn our economy around because their silence speaks volumes of their fortitude, their inability to lead, and their unwillingness to offer or even support a genuine alternative to casinos—they are following not leading. The great part is we the people can fix a lot of our economic problems ourselves by simply signing and passing the "Legalize It" initiative.

Ambrose M Bennett
Kagman, Saipan

bipolar to autism and from eating disorders to substance abuse addictions. Not one condition is the same and neither are the individuals who live with their unique challenges. We may not be able to control the mass media of mainland America; however, we can start here, locally, on our islands. We have the power to eliminate the barriers that cause a social divide between our communities. So unless the "lunatics" break loose their chains and start howling at the full moon, let's make an effort to treat each other with dignity and respect, by steering away from hateful, harmful words to describe those who may be different than ourselves and instead think of others as people first.

For more information about discrimination and stigma surrounding mental health, please contact the Protection & Advocacy for Individuals of Mental Illness program at NMPASI, 235-7273 or visit us online at www.nmpasi.org.

Greg Borja
Projects Specialist, NMPASI

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Heller, politicians and voters

I know all of you are well aware of the public discussion on the legalization of marijuana and the economic potential it offers but it still seems most of you can't get your minds off casinos or anything else and the rest are just lost and don't know what to do, I guess. You were supposed to have been looking for solutions to our economic needs and alternatives to casinos ever since the people voted no in 2008 and here we are eight years later on the same subject, it's ridiculous! Need I remind you that the impeachment was also about changing direction from the course Gov. Fitial had us on, which was for casinos. The people not only wanted Fitial out, they wanted *nothing* to do with his plans for casinos that got us *nowhere*! We the people have been forced to endure the stupidity of casino talk with every excuse possible and now it's the 25 percent. Heller!

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That's 'insane'!

I have been watching a lot of late night TV lately and I started to notice that several commercials have began using the phrases, "That's insane!" or "It's crazy!" Whether it's to show how parents and their children are narrowing the generational gap through a shared "slang" when it comes to marketing products like AT&T Beats, or a way to describe the interior of the new Chevy, or a workout video that is so strenuous to do it is "insanity," the usage of these words that historically are meant to describe people with mental illness are on the rise and seem to go unnoticed by today's society.

I grew up in a time when people warned me to not spend time with my uncle because he was "crazy" and might do me harm. In actuality my uncle was diagnosed with schizophrenia, a disorder that causes him to see or hear things that are not there. It did not guarantee that he posed a danger to me. In fact some of my fondest times were working with my uncle feeding my grandfather's chickens and just talking about the way things were while he was

growing up. It's true that at times he would say some far out things. For instance, he once told me that Ben Grimm, the Thing from the Fantastic Four comics, was buried in a cave in Marpi during the '70s. It was strange but I was glad he knew who the Thing was, unlike my parents at the time. It was a way for us to connect.

In this day and age of political correctness, where there are national campaigns to stop the usage of words like handicapped and retard to describe people, I find it disheartening that words like crazy and insane are finding their way back into our media. My belief is that the use of these words creates a stigma, a mental or physical mark that is characteristic of a defect or disease, to our community members who are seeking treatment for mental health. Furthermore, it can also create a barrier for those who are seeking the help they need, because they don't want to be associated with that group. In addition, others may face discrimination when it comes to employment or community living as a result of their diagnosis.

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Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy and breezy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. Northeast winds 20 to 25 mph.	Mostly cloudy and breezy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.
▲ 86° ▼ 75°	▲ 85° ▼ 75°	▲ 85° ▼ 75°	▲ 86° ▼ 75°	▲ 86° ▼ 75°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 86 ▼ 76
Palau	Showers	▲ 84 ▼ 76
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲ 87 ▼ 76
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲ 83 ▼ 79
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲ 85 ▼ 78
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲ 85 ▼ 78
Majuro	Showers	▲ 86 ▼ 81

Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲ 73 ▼ 61
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲ 56 ▼ 35
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	▲ 70 ▼ 64
Honolulu	Sunny	▲ 79 ▼ 66
London	Showers	▲ 51 ▼ 40
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲ 71 ▼ 50
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲ 85 ▼ 75
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲ 87 ▼ 58
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲ 86 ▼ 67
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲ 35 ▼ 20
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	▲ 57 ▼ 39
Paris	Showers	▲ 52 ▼ 41
Pusan	Sunny	▲ 59 ▼ 45
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲ 60 ▼ 42
Salem	Rain	▲ 58 ▼ 42
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲ 69 ▼ 48
Seoul	Sunny	▲ 54 ▼ 32
Tokyo	Sunny	▲ 55 ▼ 37
Washington, DC	Sunny	▲ 48 ▼ 29

Tides

		Sunrise/Sunset		Moonrise/Moonset	
Saipan Harbor		Today	6:37 AM	6:24 PM	Today
4:59 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet		2:28 AM
9:57 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.2 Feet		2:12 PM
3:15 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet		
10:48 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet		
		Wednesday	6:36 AM	6:24 PM	Wednesday
					3:25 AM
					3:14 PM
		Thursday	6:36 AM	6:24 PM	Thursday
					4:21 AM
					4:16 PM
		Friday	6:35 AM	6:24 PM	Friday
					5:14 AM
					5:18 PM
		Saturday	6:34 AM	6:25 PM	Saturday
					6:05 AM
					6:19 PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

ISLAND SNAPSHOTS

Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.

BUSINESS

Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.

SAMUT SARI

Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.

TRAVELOGUE

Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
 - Fax: (670) 235-3740
 - Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
 - Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
- To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 25, 2014

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA5039	1:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA5038	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA5078	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA5072	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA5039	1:35pm	2:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7
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ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA5039	2:40pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7
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SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)

OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	Daily
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SAIPAN-MARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:00am	8:40am	Daily
DL297	4:30pm	7:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	1, 4, 5, 7
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SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ602	2:20am	5:50am	3
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ603	3:30am	7:20am	4, 7 (will increase eff Jan 29)
D2104	2:00pm	5:30pm	6
OZ604	3:20pm	7:10pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7
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Business

Delta employees earn \$506M in profit sharing for 2013

ATLANTA—Delta Air Lines paid its employees Friday more than a half-billion dollars in earned profit sharing—the highest payout in company history—in recognition for their industry-leading performance in 2013. Employees' individual payouts will equal 8.26 percent of their eligible 2013 earnings.

"Thank you to Delta's nearly 80,000 people worldwide who

made 2013 a banner year for Delta through the strong work ethic and values they demonstrate every day," said Delta CEO Richard Anderson. "This year's profit sharing payment is a reflection of their hard work and of our conviction that if we take care of our employees, they take care of our customers and that enables our shareowners to succeed."

Along with base pay, Delta

provides employees with additional compensation elements like profit sharing, designed to allow employees to earn more when the company performs well. Additionally, Delta

» Fourth consecutive year airline pays profit sharing

employees can earn monthly bonuses for meeting corporate operational goals throughout the year, known as Shared Rewards.

In 2013, Delta

employees help achieve the corporate financial and operational goals earning \$91.7 million in Shared Rewards, which, combined with profit sharing, totals \$598 million in bonus performance pay for the year. Delta has paid out nearly \$1.7 billion in profit sharing and Shared Rewards during the

past four years.

Today, hundreds of employee celebrations are happening at Delta facilities across its global network.

Delta Air Lines serves nearly 165 million customers each year. Additional information is available on delta.com. (PR)

Think twice before leaving a 'bad' job

YOUR OFFICE COACH

By MARIE G. MCINTYRE

McClatchy-Tribune News Service

Marie G. McIntyre is a workplace coach and the author of Secrets to Winning at Office Politics. Send in questions and get free coaching tips at <http://www.yourofficecoach.com>, or follow her on Twitter @officecoach.



Question: Let me just say that I hate working with the public. When I took this job, my manager said I would be doing data entry and filing. Since then, however, I have been assigned to work the front desk several times a week. I love entering data and don't mind filing, but I despise dealing with the rude, pushy people who come into this office.

I must be a pretty good actress, because my manager always says I'm great with customers. I've never told him that they drive me absolutely crazy. To get away from all this interaction, I'm thinking about taking a course in medical coding or billing. Does that sound like a good plan?

Answer: Like many people, you selected a position that matched your personality, only to see it morph into something entirely different. While some folks might actually prefer difficult customers to a steady diet of data, the change has obviously made this job a bad fit for you.

You are certainly to be commended for making an effort to treat visitors well despite your strong negative feelings. That's not an easy act to pull off. But even if no one ever notices the pent-up anger behind your surface cordiality, maintaining that charade has got to be exhausting.

The stress of feeling one way and acting another is not sustainable for long, so you're wise to start looking for a less interactive job. But before shelling out cash for a training course, take the time to explore a variety of options. In the rush to escape a bad work situation, people often make impulsive decisions that they later come to regret.

Q: The legislature in my state recently increased the minimum wage. As a result, a newly hired employee now makes almost as much as I do. My supervisor said that if I gave her a list of my duties and responsibilities, she would try to get me a raise. I provided this summary two months ago.

Since that time, my boss has never mentioned the pay increase again. Even though her request had to be approved by the next two levels of management, I don't think it should take this long. I'd like to know what's happening, but I'm not sure how to find out.

A: After waiting patiently for two months, you deserve to know where things stand. Although you may be concerned about pestering your boss, asking a respectful question could hardly be considered nagging.

For example: "I wanted to follow up on the pay increase that we discussed a couple of months ago. I believe you sent the request to upper management, so I was wondering whether they had made a decision."

If this is a large organization where many people hold similar positions, the delay could be caused by an overall revision of the compensation plan. Or perhaps the paperwork is languishing somewhere in the management chain. But regardless of the circumstances, your question is perfectly reasonable, so don't hesitate to ask.

SYDNEY (AP)—Finance chiefs from the 20 largest economies agreed Sunday to implement policies that will boost world GDP by more than \$2 trillion over the coming five years.

Australian Treasurer Joe Hockey, who hosted the Group of 20 meeting in Sydney, said the commitment from the G-20 finance ministers and central bankers was "unprecedented."

The world economy has sputtered since the 2008 financial crisis and global recession that followed. Progress in returning economic growth to pre-crisis levels has been hampered by austerity policies in Europe, high unemployment in the U.S. and a cooling of China's torrid expansion.

The centerpiece of the \$2 trillion commitment made at the Sydney meeting is to boost the combined gross domestic product of G-20 countries by

2 percent above the levels expected for the next five years, possibly creating tens of millions of new jobs. World GDP was about \$72 trillion in 2012.

The G-20 combines the world's major industrialized and developing countries from the United States to Saudi Arabia and China, representing about 85 percent of the global economy.

The communiqué from the meeting said signs of improvement in the global economy are welcome but growth remains below the rates needed to get people back into work and to meet their aspirations.

The G-20 said it would "significantly raise global growth" without overtaxing national finance through measures to promote competition and increase investment, employment and trade.

As an initial step toward achieving the \$2 trillion tar-

get, each country will present a comprehensive growth strategy to a summit of leaders scheduled for November in the Australian city of Brisbane.

The International Monetary Fund forecasts the world economy will grow 3.7 percent this year. It said the G-20 plan could lift annual world economic growth by half a percentage point for the next five years.

U.S. Treasury Secretary Jacob Lew said the agreement is significant and crucial to "turning the next page" in the global economic recovery.

"G-20 members have spoken clearly: boosting growth and demand tops the global economic agenda" Lew said in a statement.

Hockey, the Australian treasurer, said there was intensive discussion about the challenges each country faces in boosting investment, particularly in

infrastructure. He said there is much that governments can do to boost private investment by having predictable policies and regulations.

On monetary policy, G-20 members said they recognized it needs to remain accommodative for growth in many industrialized countries but should return to normal settings "in due course" depending on the outlook for inflation and GDP.

Central banks in Europe, the United States and Japan are all maintaining lavishly easy monetary policy in an attempt to nurture economic recovery.

The Federal Reserve's recent decision to begin scaling back its monetary stimulus jolted global financial markets, particularly stocks which benefited in the past several years from record low interest rates and money created by bond buying policies.

Washington gets leading role in clash over minimum wage

By ROB HOTAKAINEN

MCCARTHY WASHINGTON BUREAU

WASHINGTON—A bidding war of sorts has broken out in Washington state, where politicians are scrambling to raise the state's minimum wage of \$9.32, already the highest in the nation.

Democratic Gov. Jay Inslee, who went to the White House on Friday to discuss the issue, wants a minimum ranging from \$10.82 to \$11.82 per hour.

A group of state House Democrats wants it to hit \$12 an hour by 2017.

And the new Seattle mayor, Ed Murray, has endorsed an even higher minimum wage: \$15, matching the rate approved by voters in the small airport city of SeaTac in November.

On the other side of the country, official Washington is watching closely, ready to spotlight the state as the U.S. Senate prepares for a March vote to raise the federal minimum wage from \$7.25 to \$10.10, a plan that has won strong backing from President Barack Obama.

"Washington state gets it—politicians in Washington, D.C., should, too," said Josh Goldstein, a spokesman for the AFL-CIO. He called the state "a leading example of what's possible for the rest of the country."

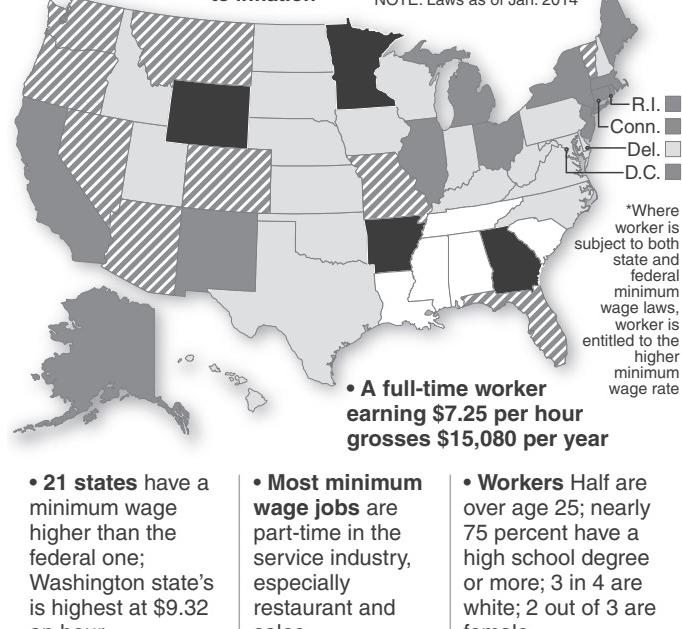
But increasing the wage rate for the nation's poorest work-

Minimum wage varies by state

About 3.6 million workers earn minimum wage or less. How state laws differ from the federal rate of \$7.25 an hour:

■ Higher than federal law ■ Higher than federal, pegged to inflation ■ Same ■ Lower* ■ No law

NOTE: Laws as of Jan. 2014



Source: U.S. Department of Labor, AP
Graphic: Judy Treible

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ers could be a heavy lift, both in Washington, D.C., and in Olympia.

On Capitol Hill, opponents got new ammunition on Tuesday from the Congressional Budget Office, which said U.S. businesses likely would shed a half-million jobs by 2016 if Congress approves the higher minimum wage.

Two of the state's top Republicans in Congress, Reps. Doc Hastings of Pasco and Cathy McMorris Rodgers of Spokane, both say they're ready to oppose an increase. Both represent districts in the eastern part of the state, where the cost of living is lower and median household incomes generally are below state averages.

In Washington state, raising

the minimum wage is proving to be a tough sell, with many who fear that the higher cost of labor already is chasing jobs to nearby border states.

"When Idaho has a \$7.25 minimum wage just a few miles away, it can have a significant impact on where businesses locate," said Republican state Sen. Michael Baumgartner of Spokane.

Democratic Sen. Patty Murray of Washington state said that an easy way to end the disparity would be for Republicans to accept the \$10.10 federal minimum, which would apply to all 50 states. And she wants the wage rate indexed to inflation, which would result in automatic increases, matching the system in place in Washington.

"I think our state prides itself on leading the way and showing that our workers are valued," said Murray, a veteran member of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, which is expected to approve the plan before it goes to the full Senate for a vote next month.

A former preschool teacher, Murray is eager to teach Congress her version of a lesson: Paying employees the current federal minimum wage, which computes to \$15,000 a year, is a good way to guarantee that people stay in poverty and ultimately hurts the U.S. economy.

Nation

Governors: ‘Obamacare’ is here to stay

By STEVE PEOPLES and
KEN THOMAS
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (AP)—The explosive politics of health care have divided the nation, but America's governors, Republicans and Democrats alike, suggest that President Barack Obama's health care overhaul is here to stay.

While governors from Connecticut to Louisiana sparred Sunday over how best to improve the nation's economy, governors of both parties shared a far more pragmatic outlook on the controversial program known as “Obamacare” as millions of their constituents begin to be covered.

“We're just trying to make the best of a bad situation,” said Republican Gov. Terry Branstad of Iowa, who called the health care law “unaffordable and unsustainable” yet something he has to implement by law. “We're trying to make it work as best we can for the people of Iowa.”

As governors gathered in Washington this weekend, Democrats such as Maryland's



Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, left, and Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder participate in the morning session of the National Governor's Association Winter Meeting in Washington, Saturday, Feb. 22, 2014.

Faulty pipe led to NY mall carbon monoxide leak

HUNTINGTON STATION, N.Y. (AP)—A faulty water heater flue pipe caused the carbon monoxide leak that killed a New York restaurant manager and sent more than two dozen people to hospitals, a fire official said Sunday.

Huntington Chief Fire Marshal Terence McNally said the fumes were circulated in the basement by the ventilation systems at the Legal Sea Foods restaurant at the Walt Whitman Shops on Long Island.

Restaurant manager Steven Nelson was found unresponsive in the basement on Saturday night and pronounced dead at a hospital.

Roger Berkowitz, presi-

dent and CEO of Legal Sea Foods, said Nelson, 55, of Copiague, had worked for the restaurant for three years and had two sons.

“It's a shock, he was a great guy, we consider ourselves a family,” Berkowitz said, adding that other employees were “traumatized.”

Berkowitz said the carbon monoxide leak was “a wakeup call for commercial businesses” and that monitors should be in all businesses.

Authorities initially went to the restaurant after receiving a call about a woman who had fallen and hit her head in the basement. Rescue workers who arrived at the scene start-

ed to feel lightheaded and nauseated and suspected a carbon monoxide leak, officials said.

The restaurant was evacuated and 27 people were treated at hospitals. All of those impacted by the fumes were restaurant employees, police or ambulance workers.

The building was not required to have carbon monoxide detectors, and there were none, McNally said.

Carbon monoxide is odorless and colorless and can lead to death by suffocation.

Police said a coroner would officially determine Nelson's cause of death. Autopsy information was not immediately available Sunday.

The two children had been considered in “extreme critical” condition following the fire, which happened Saturday morning on Indianapolis' east side.

Authorities said Lionel “Leo” Guerra, 47, and his 33-year-old wife, Brandy Mae, were pronounced dead shortly after arriving at Eskenazi Hospital on Saturday. The couple's 11-year-old son, Esteban, and 8-year-old daughter, Blanca, were pronounced dead Saturday at Riley Hospital.

The home is adjacent to a busy Interstate 70 overpass, and a motorist on that highway reported the fire about 9:10 a.m. Saturday, Reith said. Subsequent 911 calls led crews to the home's exact location in a lower-income neighborhood with a mix of small homes next to an industrial corridor.

His age was not reported, and it wasn't clear where he was at the time of the fire.

Investigators have not found the cause or place of origin for the fire, but they do not suspect any foul play, Reith said.

Investigators did not find any smoke detectors in the home, she said.

“We believe this to be the largest single loss of life for a family due to fire in the IFD service district,” Reith said.

Martin O'Malley and Connecticut's Dannel Malloy made pitches to raise the minimum wage, while Republicans such as Louisiana's Bobby Jindal and Indiana's Mike Pence called for more freedom from federal regulations, particularly those related to the health insurance overhaul.

But governors from both par-

ties say a full repeal of the law would be complicated at best, if not impossible, as states move forward with implementation and begin covering millions of people—both by expanding Medicaid rolls for lower-income

residents or through state or federal exchanges that offer federal subsidies to those who qualify.

Obama hosted most of the governors for a White House dinner Sunday night, calling for collaboration on the economy, education, climate change and health care in what he hopes will be “a year of action.”

Republican opposition to the health care law is the centerpiece of the GOP's political strategy ahead of the midterm elections. And to be sure, not every GOP leader embraced the inevitability of the law's implementation.

ACROSS THE NATION

Avalanche buries 2 snowmobilers, 1 killed

KALISPELL, Mont. (AP)—A Montana man has died in an avalanche while riding his snowmobile on the Idaho-Montana border. Authorities say a group of four men on snowmobiles triggered the avalanche about 1:15 p.m. Saturday while riding in the West Cabinet Range about 15 miles southwest of Troy, Mont. The Montana-based Flathead Avalanche Center says two snowmobilers were buried, but one had his face exposed and was dug out with no injuries. The Lincoln County Sheriff's Department on Sunday identified the deceased snowmobiler as 49-year-old Bryan William Harlow of Libby, Mont. The sheriff's department says the snowmobilers, all from Libby, stopped in a low-lying area when the avalanche occurred.

Bush: Helping veterans lifts his spirits

WASHINGTON (AP)—Former President George W. Bush says his focus on a new initiative helping returning veterans also aids him emotionally. The George W. Bush Institute and Syracuse University are undertaking a study on issues affecting veterans who have served since Sept. 11, 2001. Bush described on ABC News “This Week” how his spirits are always lifted when he meets with veterans. He said that many in the U.S.

“I don't think that it's so deeply entrenched that it can't be repealed,” Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal said. “But I do think, as we argue for repeal, we have to show folks what you replace it with.”

Despite a troubled rollout, nearly 3.3 million people have signed up through Feb. 1 for health care coverage under the law. The White House reported that 1 million people signed up nationwide for private insurance under the law in January alone. It remains unclear whether the administration will reach its unofficial goal of 7 million people by the end of March, but it still expects several million enrollees by then.

A recent Associated Press analysis found that sign-ups in six Republican-led states—Florida, Idaho, Maine, Michigan, North Carolina and Wisconsin—were on pace to match or exceed figures the states had initially projected.

Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder is among several Republicans who expanded his state's Medicaid laws.

“The whole dialogue on the Affordable Care Act is about people fighting, causing gridlock and a mess, instead of working on something important like wellness,” Snyder said, adding that he still has “a lot of issues” with the overhaul. “But it is the law, so I'm trying to work in that context.”

Vermont Gov. Peter Shumlin, who leads the Democratic Governors Association, said governors spent about half of their private lunch session Saturday discussing the health care law and the tone was much different than in past years.

are incredibly comfortable and yet have a “woe is me” mentality. He says that's not the case with veterans, who ask how they can continue to serve. Bush said the mission of his institute is to help society serve veterans more efficiently. For example, it's working to show employers how various military experiences can translate into marketable job skills.

Oil closes New Orleans port, part of Miss. river

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—A 65-mile stretch of the Mississippi River, including the Port of New Orleans, was closed to all water traffic Sunday as crews cleaned up oil that spilled from a barge after it ran into a towboat between Baton Rouge and New Orleans, the Coast Guard said. Officials don't know how much oil spilled, but only a sheen was reported on the river following the collision, which happened Saturday afternoon near Vacherie, 47 miles west of New Orleans by land, said Coast Guard Petty Officer Bill Colclough. No one was hurt and all barges were secured, Colclough said. The cause of the collision was under investigation. By late Sunday afternoon, 16 vessels were waiting to go downriver and 10 vessels were waiting in an upriver queue, Colclough said. He could not estimate when the river would reopen but said it was likely to remain closed overnight.

2 siblings die from Ind. fire injuries; 6 total

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—Two young children died Sunday from injuries they sustained in a house fire that killed two of their siblings and their parents, an Indianapolis Fire Department spokeswoman said.

Miranda Guerra, 14, and her 6-year-old brother, Fuentes, were pronounced dead Sunday afternoon at Riley Hospital for Children, Capt. Rita Reith said.

The extended family was working with the hospital for possible organ procurement, Reith said.

“We believe this to be the largest single loss of life for a family due to fire in the IFD service district,” Reith said.

Asia

Bombing kills 14 at northwest Pakistan bus station

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (AP)—A bomb planted at a busy bus terminal near a police station in northwest Pakistan killed 14 people and wounding 15 near the country's lawless tribal region, authorities said.

The explosion Sunday targeted passengers in a motorized rickshaw and those on a minibus in Kohat, some 150 kilometers (100 miles) west of the capital, Islamabad, police official Iqbal Khan said.

No one immediately claimed responsibility for the attack, though Kohat has seen past attacks by local Taliban fighters and allied sectarian groups against its minority Shiite population, which has a presence in the city and its outskirts.

Khan and police official Fazal Naeem said the vehicles targeted were bound for a Shiite-majority area, and suspected that the minority Muslims could have been the target of the attack.

AP A Pakistani man, who was injured in a bomb blast in Kohat, receives treatment at a hospital in Peshawar, Pakistan, Sunday, Feb. 23, 2014.



Northwestern provincial police chief Nasir Durrani said security forces have been conducting counterinsurgency operations in the area.

Local Taliban militants have killed tens of thousands of Pakistanis in a bloody war against the state in a bid to overthrow the government and enforce their own harsh brand of Islamic Shariah law.

Pakistan's government recently started peace talks with the Taliban, but negotiations were suspended after the killing of 23 soldiers by a faction of the militant group and a militant-claimed bombing in southern port city of Karachi that killed 13 police officers.

Air force jets have been pounding militants' hideouts in various tribal regions near the Afghan border since the peace talks collapsed last week.

In the latest strikes, the air force hit militants' compounds and a bomb-making factory in the Tirah valley in Khyber tribal region, an army and an intelligence official said late Sunday. They claimed that at least 28 militants were killed.

They spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to the media on record.

There was no way to independently confirm the report. The remote tribal area is off limits to journalists.

Both the Pakistani government and the local Taliban are demanding each other to initiate a cease-fire first to resume the talks.

Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif long has favored peace talks over military action to end the bloodshed in the northwest, but he is also under pressure from critics to retaliate for any Taliban violence.

One of the critics is an ethnic political party based in Karachi called the Muttahida Qaumi Movement.

The party on Sunday held an anti-Taliban rally to express solidarity with Pakistan's security forces. Thousands of people demonstrated and were addressed by the party leader Altaf Hussain by phone from London.

"Taliban are cancer for Pakistan. Taliban are cancer for the humanity," he said.

3 dead in attack on Bangkok anti-govt protesters

BANGKOK (AP)—Two young siblings and a woman were killed in an apparent grenade attack against anti-government protesters occupying an upscale shopping area of Thailand's capital on Sunday, the latest violence in a months-long political crisis that is growing bloodier by the day.

The attack near the Ratchaprasong intersection in the heart of Bangkok, home to major shopping malls and luxury hotels, followed another assault on anti-government protesters in eastern Thailand on Saturday night that killed a young girl and wounded dozens of other people.

A 6-year-old girl, Patcharakorn Yos-ubon, died Monday from brain and liver injuries, according to Erawan emergency

services center, which keeps track of protest casualties in Bangkok. She died one day after her 4-year-old brother, Korawit, and a 59-year-old woman were killed in the attack.

A 9-year-old boy suffering from brain and lung damage from the explosion remained in the intensive care unit of Ramathibodi Hospital, according to a hospital statement released Monday.

Erawan center said Sunday's violence left 21 others injured.

The attacks were the latest in a spate of protest-related violence roiling Thailand over the past three months, with at least 18 people killed and hundreds hurt. The protesters, who are occupying several key intersections in Bangkok, want Prime

Minister Yingluck Shinawatra to quit to make way for an appointed interim government to implement anti-corruption reforms, but she has refused.

On Saturday night, a 5-year-old girl was killed and about three dozen people wounded in an attack on an anti-government rally in the eastern province of Trat.

The perpetrators have not been identified in either attack. Both sides in the ongoing political dispute have blamed the other for instigating violence.

A protest leader, Sathit Wongnongoey, said Sunday's explosion was caused by a grenade. Six protesters were hurt Friday night by a grenade attack in the same area.

Explosives experts from the police and army cordoned off

the immediate area of the blast to search for clues amid vendors' overturned tables and bloodied sandals. Protesters, meanwhile, continued to rally on streets in the area that they have occupied for several weeks, while soldiers patrolled in combat gear.

While the protesters have failed repeatedly to force Yingluck out through self-declared deadlines, they have blocked the prime minister from working at her normal offices and have sent roving mobs after her, making it difficult for her and Cabinet members to make public appearances.

The protesters also have succeeded in delaying completion of early elections called by Yingluck, undermining efforts to restore political stability.

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South Korean Lee Yik-kyu, 80, hadn't seen his 83-year-old North Korean brother, Ri In Gyu, since he was taken during the war by North Korean soldiers. The brothers approached each other awkwardly at first on Sunday before embracing and weeping.

"Are you my brother?" Lee asked. "It's Yik-kyu."

Lee told South Korean reporters that his mother grieved Ri In Gyu's loss until she died 18 years ago, often calling out, "In Gyu, are you dead or alive?"

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ASIAN BRIEFS

Philippine police kill 7 suspected drug dealers

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine authorities killed at least seven alleged drug traffickers and arrested dozens of others Friday in raids in a southern city, police said. Police officers and Drug Enforcement Agency agents were met by gunfire when they raided 26 hideouts of suspected drug traffickers in Davao city's coastal Tibungo district, said Chief Superintendent Benjamin Magalang, head of the national police Criminal Investigation and Detection Group. He said seven suspects died in the ensuing firefight and 36 others, including a South Korean, were arrested by the authorities, who were backed by a unit of the Philippine navy's special warfare group and the local police maritime force.

Landslides kill 11 in Indonesia's Papua province

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—Torrential rains triggered floods and landslides that killed at least 11 people in Indonesia's easternmost province of Papua, an official said Monday. Sutopo Purwo Nugroho, spokesman for the National Disaster Mitigation Agency, said two people are still missing after the landslides hit three locations in the provincial capital of Jayapura. More than 50 houses have been damaged in the landslides and flooding due to incessant rains that began Saturday night, he said. Rains also caused three rivers in the city to overflow. Rescuers, including soldiers, police and volunteers, were still searching for the missing two and opening access to the affected areas, Nugroho said.

Taliban checkpoint attack kills 21 Afghan soldiers

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Hundreds of heavily armed Taliban insurgents attacked army checkpoints in eastern Afghanistan on Sunday, officials said, killing 21 soldiers in the deadliest single incident for the Afghan army in at least a year. In response to the assault—which also left several Afghan soldiers missing—President Hamid Karzai postponed a planned trip to Sri Lanka. Gen. Mohammad Zahir Azimi, who is spokesman for the Defense Ministry, said "hundreds" of foreign and Afghan insurgents crossed the border to mount the attack, which took place in the remote and mountainous Ghazi Abad district of Kunar Province in the early morning hours. Azimi did not specify which border, but Kunar lies next to Pakistan. It's a militant stronghold, and many Arab and other foreign insurgents are believed to operate there alongside the Afghan Taliban. The Taliban claimed responsibility for Sunday's attack.

US-South Korea war games loom over Korean reunions

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—A year ago, North Korea vowed nuclear attacks to retaliate for U.S.-South Korean war games. But the start Monday of this year's joint military drills comes as Pyongyang allows wrenching reunions of elderly Koreans separated since the Korean War.

As always with the rival Koreas, cold political calculations loom behind the scenes of pure emotion.

The reasons for Pyongyang's about-face are seen as having more to do with the impoverished country's desire to drive a wedge between Seoul and Washington and its need for money

South Koreans in more than three years have been held despite the refusal by the U.S. and South Korea to cancel what they call routine drills, but which Pyongyang says are preparations for an invasion.

The two sets of drills began Monday as scheduled, but there was no immediate reaction from North Korea's military, according to Seoul's Defense Ministry.

On Sunday, about 360 South Koreans arrived at the North's Diamond Mountain resort to meet dozens of North Korean relatives, the second and final group of Koreans to participate in reunions that began Thursday

and end Tuesday. These are the lucky few. Only a fraction of the millions of Koreans separated by the Korean War have been reunited, and there have been no second meetings.

South Korean Lee Yik-kyu, 80, hadn't seen his 83-year-old North Korean brother, Ri In Gyu, since he was taken during the war by North Korean soldiers. The brothers approached each other awkwardly at first on Sunday before embracing and weeping.

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World

Ukraine parliament head takes presidential powers

By JIM HEINTZ and ANGELA CHARLTON
ASSOCIATED PRESS

KIEV, Ukraine (AP)—With an ally claiming presidential powers Sunday and the whereabouts and legitimacy of the nominal president unclear, newly freed opposition icon Yulia Tymoshenko may feel her chance to take Ukraine's leadership has come. But even among protesters who detest President Viktor Yanukovich, Tymoshenko sparks misgivings.

The former prime minister, who was convicted of abuse of office in a case widely seen as political revenge by her archfoe Yanukovich, is a polarizing figure in a country staggering from political tensions that exploded into violence. Admired and even adored by many for her flair and fiery rhetoric, Tymoshenko is regarded by others as driven by intense ego and tainted with corruption.

Just a day after she left the hospital where she was imprisoned, demonstrators outside the Cabinet of Ministers expressed dismay that she could be Ukraine's next president. One of them held a placard depicting Tymoshenko taking power from Yanukovich and reading, "People didn't die for this."

Ukraine is in a delicate state of uncertainty since Yanukovich and protest leaders signed an agreement to end the conflict that left more than 80 people dead last week in Kiev. Soon after signing it, Yanukovich's whereabouts are unclear after he left the capital for his support base in eastern Ukraine. Allies are deserting him.

Russia's next moves in the crisis were not immediately clear, but Washington warned Moscow not to intervene militarily.

The newly emboldened par-



A woman cries as she stands kneeling at the site of recent deadly clashes between opposition protesters and riot police close to Kiev's Independence Square, Ukraine, on a mourning day Sunday, Feb. 23, 2014.

liament, now dominated by the opposition, struggled to work out who is in charge of the country and its ailing economy. Fears percolated that some regions might try to break away and seek support from neighboring Russia, particularly the Crimean peninsula where Russia's Black Sea naval fleet is based.

Ukraine is deeply divided between eastern regions that are largely pro-Russian and western areas that widely detest Yanukovich and long for closer ties with the European Union.

Yanukovich set off a wave of protests by shelving an agreement

with the EU in November, and the movement quickly expanded its grievances to corruption, human rights abuses and calls for Yanukovich's resignation.

The parliament on Sunday assigned presidential powers to its new speaker, Tymoshenko ally Oleksandr Turchinov, who said top priorities include saving the economy and "returning to the path of European integration," according to news agencies. The latter phrase is certain to displease Moscow, which wants Ukraine to be part of a customs union that would rival the EU

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The phone was connected to his communications chief, Carlos Manuel Ramirez, whose nickname is Condor. By the next day Mexican authorities arrested one of Guzman's top couriers, who promptly provided details of the stash houses Guzman and his associates had been using, the officials said.

The officials said three tons

and bolster Russia's influence. Russia granted Ukraine a \$15 billion bailout after Yanukovich backed away from the EU deal.

The Kiev protest camp at the center of the anti-Yanukovich movement filled with more and more dedicated demonstrators Sunday, setting up new tents.

Demonstrators posed with an APC and two water cannon that protesters seized during last week's clashes and carried flowers to memorialize the dead, some of whom were killed by snipers.

Tymoshenko, the blonde-braided and controversial hero-

ine of the 2004 Orange Revolution, increasingly appears to have the upper hand in the political battle, winning the backing Sunday of a leading Russian lawmaker and congratulations from German Chancellor Angela Merkel and U.S. senators on her release.

Early ties to Europe, Russia

• Part of Kyivan Rus, the most powerful European state, in the 10th and 11th centuries; incorporated into Poland-Lithuania in the 12th; gained autonomy in the 17th but was conquered by the Russian Empire in the 18th

• Brief independence (1917-1920) after the fall of czarist Russia, then absorbed into the Soviet Union

Key events since Soviet Union fell

Aug. 24, 1991 Ukraine declares independence

Dec. 26, 2004 Pro-Western Viktor Yuschenko declared president after a divisive election that saw him poisoned with dioxin; the Nov. 21 runoff victory of his opponent Viktor Yanukovich was set aside after massive street rallies known as the Orange Revolution

2005 Russia cuts off natural gas supplies to Ukraine and Europe, most likely to pressure Yuschenko over his pro-Western policies; deliveries resume in 2006

March 2006 Yuschenko loses his majority in Parliament after elections and defectors of his former Orange Revolution ally Yulia Tymoshenko, who becomes prime minister in 2007, renegotiates Russian gas deal in 2009

Jan. 17, 2010 Yuschenko loses in first round of presidential elections; Yanukovich then beats Tymoshenko in runoff, takes office Feb. 25

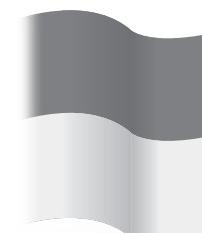
Oct. 11, 2011 Tymoshenko is sentenced to seven years in prison for alleged abuse of power involving the renegotiated gas deal

Nov. 29, 2013 Yanukovich rejects an EU trade deal and embraces a close relationship with Russia, sparking street protests in Kiev, other cities

Feb. 18, 2014 Security forces clash with protesters in Kiev, leaving at least 25 people dead

Feb. 19 Truce declared, then shattered; EU imposes sanctions

Feb. 21 Two sides sign deal allowing for early presidential elections, revised constitution



Ukraine: Pulled toward the East and the West

The violence that has erupted in the Ukraine over its president's decision to turn his back on an EU trade deal in favor of closer ties with Russia is yet another chapter in the history of conflict in that country between pro-Western and pro-Russian factions.



At a glance

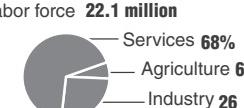
Fragile economy

Ukraine's dependence on Russia for most of its energy supplies, reliance on steel exports for income and lack of structural reform have made its economy vulnerable; data for 2012

GDP per person \$7,300

Public debt (percent of GDP) 36.6%

Labor force 22.1 million



Unemployment rate 7.5%

Poverty rate 29%

Trade balance -\$14.3 billion

Top exports Steel, military equipment, metals, petroleum products

Top trading partner Russia; more than half of total trade

Source: CIA World Factbook, BBC, The Military Balance, ESRI, DeLorme, IPC, NAVTEQ, NRCAN, McClatchy Washington Bureau

People: Mostly ethnic Ukrainian

Russians, the largest minority, live mainly in the East

Total population 44.6 million



Military

The Russian Black Sea Fleet is based in Crimea, an autonomous republic that was part of Russia until 1954 and is now part of Ukraine

Ukrainian military forces, 2011

Active duty 129,925
Reserves 1 million

Paramilitary forces, 2011

Police (MVS) 39,900
Border Guard 45,000

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Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman is escorted to a helicopter in handcuffs by Mexican navy marines at a navy hanger in Mexico City, Mexico, Saturday, Feb. 22, 2014.

At each house, the Mexican military found the same thing: steel reinforced doors and an escape hatch below the bathtubs. Each hatch led to a series of interconnected tunnels in the city's drainage system.

The officials said three tons

which was filled with water and mud and smelled of sewage. About 700 meters (yards) in, a trap door was open, revealing a newly constructed tunnel. Large and lined with wood panels like a cabin, the passage had lighting and air conditioning. At the end of the tunnel was a blue ladder attached to the wall that lead to one of the houses Mexican authorities say Guzman used as a hideout.

A day after troops narrowly missed Guzman in Culiacan, top aide Manuel Lopez Ozorio was arrested. The officials said he told investigators that he picked up Guzman, Ramirez and a woman from a drainage pipe and helped them flee to Mazatlan.

A wiretap being monitored by ICE agents in southern Arizona provided the final clue, helping track Guzman to the beachfront condo, the officials said.

Focus

By HANNAH DREIER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

As the middle class struggles to make gains and President Barack Obama strives to shine a spotlight on the issue of income inequality, an unlikely constituency is looking for ways to close the nation's growing wealth gap: A handful of top U.S. business tycoons.

These advocates point to notions of fairness and admit to twinges of guilt, but the core concern driving all of them—left, right and libertarian—is a belief that the economy doesn't function efficiently when the wealth gap is wide. They are proposing solutions that range from pressuring fellow entrepreneurs to pay workers more to simply giving their money back to the government to redistribute.

Since roughly 1980, the wealthy have been prospering while the middle class stagnates or falls behind. Members of the 0.1 percent now make at least \$1.7 million a year and grab 10 percent of the national income, while the median annual household income has dropped, landing at \$51,017.

The gap is growing wider. Income for the highest-earning 1 percent of Americans soared 31 percent from 2009 through 2012, after adjusting for inflation. For everyone else, it inched up an average of 0.4 percent.

As U.S. society has grown more unequal, rich men and women have set up clubs and foundations to encourage economic parity, and they are actively lobbying for change.

The figure of the fairness-conscious billionaire has a precedent, said Harvard Business School professor Michael Norton. During the Gilded Age, at the end of the 1800s, tycoons took steps to increase equality and help the working class.

"Names like Carnegie, Mellon and Rockefeller—the (Warren) Buffet and (Bill) Gates of their days—grace universities, museums and medical centers in part because the originators of those fortunes gave back," Norton said. "In the same way that some businesspeople are now taking steps to address climate change due to its effects on costs and revenues ... the notion that inequality can be bad not just for ethical reasons, but for financial reasons, is one that is increasingly embraced by businesspeople."

Here's a look at some of these opponents of the widening gap between the poor and, well, themselves.

BUFFETT: THE BILLIONAIRE PIED PIPER

The most visible of the superrich Robin Hoods is investor Warren Buffett, who has persuaded dozens of billionaires to give away large portions of their fortunes. Buffett, 83, is the second-richest American, according to Forbes magazine, with a net worth of \$58.5 billion. He heads Berkshire Hathaway Inc., which owns everything from the insurance company GEICO and Dairy Queen to underwear maker Fruit of the Loom.

For years, he has advocated policies to close the wealth gap, saying reforms are necessary for the nation's continued prosperity. Buffett has famously complained that he pays a lower tax rate than some of his most menial

5 TYCOONS who want to close the wealth gap



In this May 14, 1933 file photo, John D. Rockefeller, Sr. is surrounded by state troopers and admirers as he attended church in Lakewood, N.J. AP

wage employees. That's because, like many moguls, much of his income comes from capital gains and dividend payments, which are taxed at a lower rate than ordinary wages. His activism gave rise to Obama's proposed "Buffet rule," which would ensure that anyone making more than \$1 million per year pay at least the same rate as middle-income taxpayers.

The self-made Omaha, Neb., magnate has also for years targeted unequal wealth accumulation. Buffet advocated for a progressive estate tax before members of Congress, saying in 2007, "Dynastic wealth, the enemy of a meritocracy, is on the rise. Equality of opportunity has been on the decline. A progressive and meaningful estate tax is needed to curb the movement of a democracy toward plutocracy."

Buffett, who did not immediately respond to questions submitted via his assistant, has played a key role in encouraging his peers to redistribute their wealth by choice. In 2010, he launched the Giving Pledge program in which wealthy entrepreneurs publicly promise to donate at least half of their riches to charity. Adherents including Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg, oil tycoon T. Boone Pickens and former New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg.

UNZ: THE REPUBLICAN WHO FAVORS A RAISE

Not all members of the super-rich taking up the issue of inequality are progressives. Ron Unz, a Silicon Valley millionaire and registered Republican who once ran for California governor, is advocating the highest minimum wage in the country for his home state.

Unz rose to fame when he spearheaded a 1998 ballot proposal that dismantled California's bilingual education system. He later became publisher of *The American Conservative*, a libertarian-leaning magazine.

Lately, he has become obsessed with the idea that a wage hike is the best way to advance the conservative ideal of reducing dependence on government

programs. Frustrated with the gridlock in Congress, Unz is pouring his own money into a November ballot measure that would increase the minimum wage in California to \$12 an hour in 2016.

At that level, he said in an interview with The Associated Press, "every full-time worker would be earning almost exactly \$25,000 and every full-time worker couple \$50,000. Under normal family circumstances, those income levels are sufficiently above the poverty threshold that households would lose their eligibility for a substantial fraction of the various social welfare payments they currently receive, including earned-income tax credit checks, food stamps and housing subsidies."

Unz, whose fortune comes from founding Wall Street Analytics Inc., argues that by not paying a living wage, companies are forcing the government to subsidize them through massive welfare spending. An advocate for the free market, Unz opposes any kind of subsidy. The wage proposal has led him to work with strange bedfellows, including Ralph Nader, the consumer advocate and former independent presidential candidate, and progressive economist James Galbraith.

Unz, 52, trained as a theoretical physicist, has an IQ of 214 and has written scholarly papers on the Spartan naval empire. His political rivals and allies alike have made much of his nerdy demeanor. But his unorthodox background seems to have given him the confidence to go against the conventional wisdom of his party.

"The thing that's really shocking is that the Republican response to the problem is to call for increased welfare spending. From a free-market perspective, businesses should compete without subsidies," Unz said. "If they can't compete, then maybe they should go out of business."

HANAUER: HELPING PEOPLE BUY WHAT AMAZON SELLS

Seattle venture capitalist Nick Hanauer believes the growing wealth gap threat-

sation ratio at the 1980 level of 50-to-1 would pay tax at the current rate of 35 percent; companies with a larger pay gap would be taxed at a higher level, and those with a narrower gap would pay a lower rate.

Silberstein took a step into the spotlight when he produced the documentary "Inequality for All," featuring former U.S. Labor Secretary Robert Reich. It premiered last year at the Sundance Film Festival.

"He's one of the quiet leaders of the entire movement toward wider prosperity," Reich said. "An increasing number of wealthy businesspeople are becoming concerned that the economy can't function without a strong middle class to keep it going."

Silberstein told the AP his views are not so different from that original American industrialist, Henry Ford, who famously paid his factory workers enough to purchase one of the cars that came off his assembly line.

"As a result he became rich," Silberstein said. "If the economy goes well, everybody does well, including the wealthy."

Like many left-leaning executives troubled by the wealth gap, Silberstein insists that his ideological views play only a small part in his concerns.

"It's a problem, and everybody is losing as a result. It's self-interest and the interest in my country, too," he said.

HINDERY: THE TITAN WHO WANTS TO PAY MORE TAXES

Leo Hindery Jr., the New York City media and investing mogul, is one of hundreds of wealthy people directly asking Congress to raise their taxes as a member of Patriotic Millionaires. The group was formed in 2010 to advocate for the end of Bush-era tax cuts for people making more than \$1 million a year. Hindery is also a member of Smart Capitalists for American Prosperity, and he was among a group of entrepreneurs who went door-to-door in the halls of Congress in early February asking for a higher minimum wage.

A managing partner of the media industry private equity fund InterMedia Partners, Hindery was previously chief executive of AT&T Broadband and of the YES Network, the cable channel of the Yankees. He says he's turned down raises to ensure that he never makes more than 20 times the salary of his employees. He is also one of the biggest Democratic fundraisers in the nation.

The 66-year-old argues that giving rich people tax breaks makes no economic sense because people like him don't put their extra dollars back into the economy.

"Do you think I don't own every piece of clothing, every automobile? I already have it. You spend money. Rich people just get richer," he told the AP.

Hindery credits his Jesuit upbringing with giving him the tools to look beyond his own economic advantages.

"How can we believe in the American dream when 10 percent of the people have half the nation's income? It's immoral, I think it's unethical, but I also think that it's bad economics," Hindery said. "The only people who can take exception to this argument are people who want to get super rich and don't care what happens to the nation as a whole."

Overdrive

By SUSAN CARPENTER
THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

The Nissan Rogue has little in common with the smugglers, thieves and general scalawags that share its name—except in its 2014 redesign, which is something of a steal.

Starting at \$23,350, Nissan's second-best-selling vehicle has been entirely overhauled to offer even more for the money in the increasingly crowded, and competitive, compact SUV space.

It's a feat of accounting trickery for a five-seat crossover to include Bluetooth, streaming audio, a rearview camera, a color audio display and a multitude of behind-the-scenes technologies as standard equipment on a vehicle of this size at this price. But such are the demands in today's more-for-less market.

The "more" in the Rogue is spread throughout the vehicle, but it's most apparent in its physicality. The 2014 is noticeably larger from the outside, with its oversized wheel wells and taller roofline. Its interior is even more so. Stretching the wheelbase and lifting its lid makes the Rogue feel even bigger from the inside than it looks from afar.

While an optional third row is available in the Rogue to enable the seating of seven, my test vehicle was outfitted with the usual five, all of which were comfortable. Out-of-town visitors on a recent weekend literally could not stop talking about the amazing view they had from the back seat. Not only were their rear seats somewhat taller than the front, they offered such exceptional leg room that some of them were inspired to reduce the amount of femur space to better hear my front-seat con-

Nissan Rogue is quite the steal



The 2014 Nissan Rogue is all-new and uses a continuously variable transmission.

NISSAN/MCT

versation. Doing so was easy with manual levers that can slide the rear seats forward as much as 9 inches.

All the seats in the Rogue, except for the driver's, fold like contortionists, including that of the front passenger. Combined, when collapsed, they open an incredible 70 cubic feet of storage that, Nissan claims, can fit an 8-foot ladder and still close the rear lift gate. Unfortunately, the rear seats do not fold flat with the cargo floor but are, instead, stepped by about 5 inches.

Otherwise the space is radically configurable, thanks to a rear seat that folds in three pieces, instead of the usual two, and a Drive-N-Hide Cargo system

that lets owners slice and dice the interior 18 different ways using a system of removable

floor pieces. Even the rear doors open in a more hippo-like fashion than the outgoing model for

easier access.

Powered with a 2.5-liter, four-cylinder engine that's paired with a more efficient version of Nissan's Xtronic continuously variable transmission, the Rogue's performance will only impress drivers who value fuel economy at the expense of driving enjoyment. While the CVT is one of the reasons the Rogue is now able to achieve an EPA-estimated 24 mpg combined in the all-wheel drive version I tested, it is hardly responsive from a dead stop. Its wimpy character can, however, be improved ever so slightly with the press of a "sport mode" button to the left of the steering wheel.

Aerodynamically optimized

with underbody tweaks that won't be noticed by anyone without a jack and covers, as well as new front pillars and exterior mirrors that have the added benefit of reducing cabin noise at least at lower speeds, the Rogue's ride quality is adequate for its price.

The road still makes itself apparent, but the SUV's handling is improved with two new "active" systems, including trace control that improves cornering by automatically applying the brakes and smoothing engine torque upon acceleration, and an engine braking system that uses the CVT to help slow the car so the driver doesn't have to press the pedal as hard to slow or stop.

The Rogue is available in three versions—the S base model, SV and the most high-end version I tested: the leather-seat, nine-speaker, nav-equipped, moon-roofed SL—all of which can be had with front- or all-wheel drive, the latter of which comes at a \$1,350 premium.

While the Rogue comes with a baseline of safety features, such as a blind spot warning that uses lights to indicate unseen but nevertheless approaching vehicles, and lane departure and forward collision warnings that beep to let drivers know when they're getting sloppy, its most innovative safety features do cost extra. A premium package includes an around-view monitor that uses four small super wide-angle cameras mounted on the front, sides and rear of the SUV to offer a view that seems impossible—a bird's eye view from above that offers Mr. DeMille-style close-ups of the Rogue's four corners to help get in and out of tight spots.

Yet even fully loaded, the Rogue still offers an excellent value proposition for drivers whose lifestyles are more robust than their bank accounts.

NUTS & BOLTS

2014 Nissan Rogue

- **Powertrain:** 2.5-liter, inline-four-cylinder, four valves per cylinder, DOHC, sequential multi-point dual fuel injection, continuously variable transmission with sport mode
 - **Horsepower:** 170 at 6,000 rpm
 - **Torque:** 175 at 4,400 rpm
 - **Wheelbase:** 106.5 inches
 - **Overall length:** 182.3 inches
 - **Curb weight:** 3,441 pounds
 - **EPA-estimated fuel economy:** 22 mpg city, 27 mpg highway, 24 mpg combined
 - **Base price:** \$23,350
 - **Price as tested:** \$32,395
- Prices include destination charge.

Good tires can make all the difference in ugly weather

When was the last time you thought about car tires? It might have been last week, when you discovered how poorly your car handled snowy roads. It reminds me of billionaire investor Warren Buffett's bon mot, "you only find out who is swimming naked when the tide goes out." After all, people ignore their tires until they fail. But a little bit of knowledge and preventive maintenance can help you avoid such catastrophes.

As you may have discovered, nothing affects your car as much as an under-inflated tire, which happens easily here in regions where the temperatures swing high and low. According to Goodyear, a tire typically loses between 1 and 2 pounds of pressure for every 10-degree decline in temperature. So if the mercury plummets as a snowstorm nears, it's a good idea to check the tire pressure on all five wheels. You'll find the proper air pressure for a tire is located in the owner's manual, not on the tire's sidewall. It's also listed either in the glove box or on the driver's side doorjamb.

Tire pressure is important when driving through deep snow because you want the tire to dig down to the pavement where it can gain traction, something that won't happen with a soft, under-inflated tire.

Of course, once it's inflated properly, you also want to make sure to check the state of the tread itself. Take a penny and place it upside down into several places across the tire. If the top of Abe

Lincoln's head is showing, it's time to replace the tire. You may find that the tire is worn on both edges, a sign that it's been driven extensively while underinflated.

But say that, unlike most motorists, you pay attention to these routine maintenance items and everything is fine. Even then your car or truck might need a new set of shoes.

Most passenger cars are equipped with all-season or all-season performance tires. The former will have more grip in foul weather than the latter, but will also not handle or stop as well in dry conditions as an all-season performance tire will. Generally, all-season tires have a speed rating of S, good for speeds up to 112 mph, or T, for speeds up to 118 mph. Both ratings are on the tire's sidewall. By contrast, all-season performance tires have speed ratings of H, for 130 mph, or V, for 149 mph.

If you have a high-performance car, or a luxury sedan, chances are good that you have a high-performance tire with a speed rating of ZR, for speeds above 149 mph; W, good until 168 mph; or Y, for when you might find yourself driving somewhere at 186 mph or less. The tread isn't designed for cold, icy conditions—as you might have recently found out. So opt for a set of winter tires, which have a snowflake on the sidewall. Save the other set of tires for warmer temperatures.

When it comes to truck tires, your options are simpler: all-season tires or all-terrain tires. Most drivers will find the

former fine.

If you do any off-road work, all-terrain is the way to go.

No matter what your vehicle or tire, keep in mind that some all-season tires grip better than others.

So it's good idea to check the traction score of the tire you're about to buy. This score measures its ability to grip. AA is the top score; avoid those labeled C. You'll find this rating on the sidewall.

Most likely, you haven't read your current tires' sidewall, but you should.

If it has a low traction score and little tread left, have it replaced with a higher-quality tire.

That way, should it snow again, you'll find your car can handle frozen precipitation a lot better than you'd ever expect it to.

After all, a great track star can't be effective with lousy sneakers.

Neither can your car.

By LARRY PRINTZ

The Virginian-Pilot

Larry Printz is automotive editor at The Virginian-Pilot in Norfolk, Va. He can be reached at larry.printz@pilotonline.com.



Life & Style

Oldest-known Holocaust survivor dies at 110

LONDON (AP)—Alice Herz-Sommer, believed to be the oldest Holocaust survivor, died at age 110 on Sunday, a family member said. The accomplished pianist's death came just a week before her extraordinary story of surviving two years in a Nazi prison camp through devotion to music and her son is up for an Oscar.

Herz-Sommer died in a hospital after being admitted Friday with health problems, daughter-in-law Genevieve Sommer said.

"We all came to believe that she would just never die," said Frederic Bohbot, a producer of the documentary "The Lady in Number 6: Music Saved My Life." "There was no question in my mind, 'would she ever see the Oscars.'"

The film, directed by Oscar-winning filmmaker Malcolm Clarke, has been nominated for best short documentary at the Academy Awards next Sunday.

Another producer on the film, Nick Reed, said telling her story was a "life-changing experience."

"Even as her energy slowly diminished, her bright spirit never faltered," she said. "Her life force was so strong we could never imagine her not being around."

Herz-Sommer, her husband and her son were sent from Prague in 1943 to a concentration camp in the Czech city of Terezin—Theresienstadt in German—where inmates were allowed to stage concerts in which she frequently starred.

An estimated 140,000 Jews were sent to Terezin and 33,430 died there. About 88,000 were moved on to Auschwitz and other death camps, where most of them were killed. Herz-Sommer and her son, Stephan, were among fewer than 20,000 who were freed when the notorious camp was liberated by the Soviet army in May 1945.

Yet she remembered herself as "always laughing" during her time in Terezin, where the joy of making music kept them going.

"These concerts, the people



now I don't know when she died, nothing.

"When I went home from bringing her to this place I remember I had to stop in the middle of the street and I listened to a voice, an inner voice: 'Now, nobody can help you, not your husband, not your little child, not the doctor.'"

From then on, she took refuge in the 24 Etudes of Frederic Chopin, a dauntingly difficult monument of the repertoire. She labored at them for up to eight hours a day.

She recalled an awkward conversation on the night before her departure to the concentration camp with a Nazi who lived upstairs and called to say that he would miss her playing.

She remembered him saying: "I hope you will come back. What I want to tell you is that I admire you, your playing, hours and hours, the patience and the beauty of the music."

Other neighbors, she said, stopped by only to take whatever the family wasn't able to bring to the camp.

"So the Nazi was a human, the only human. The Nazi, he thanked me," she said.

The camp's artistic side was a

blessing; young Stephan, then 6, was recruited to play a sparrow in an opera.

"My boy was full of enthusiasm," she recalled. "I was so happy because I knew my little boy was happy there."

The opera was "Brundibar," a 40-minute piece for children composed by Hans Krásá, a Czech who was also imprisoned in the camp. It was first performed in Prague but got only one other performance before he was interned.

"Brundibar" became a showpiece for the camp, performed at least 55 times including once when Terezin, which had been extensively spruced up for the occasion, was inspected by a Red Cross delegation in June 1944.

The opera featured in a 1944 propaganda film which shows more than 40 young performers filling the small stage during the finale.

In 1949, she left Czechoslovakia to join her twin sister Mizzi in Jerusalem. She taught at the Jerusalem Conservatory until 1986, when she moved to London.

Her son, who changed his first name to Raphael after the war, made a career as a concert cellist. He died in 2001.

Photo dated July 2010 made available by the makers of the Oscar nominated documentary *The Lady in Number 6*, in which she tells her story, of Alice Herz-Sommer, believed to be the oldest-known survivor of the Holocaust, who died in London on Sunday morning at the age of 110.

are sitting there, old people, desolated and ill, and they came to the concerts and this music was for them our food. Music was our food. Through making music we were kept alive," she once recalled.

"When we can play it cannot be so terrible."

Though she never learned where her mother died after being rounded up, and her husband died of typhus at Dachau, in her old age she expressed little bitterness.

"We are all the same," she said. "Good, and bad."

Caroline Stoessinger, a New York concert pianist who wrote a book about Herz-Sommer, said she interviewed numerous people who were at the concerts who said "for that hour they were transported back to their homes and they could have hope."

"Many people espouse certain creeds, but they don't live them. She did," said Stoessinger, author of "A Century of Wisdom: Lessons from the Life of Alice Herz-Sommer, the World's Oldest Living Holocaust Survivor."

"She understood truly that music is a language and she understood how to communicate

through this language of music."

Herz-Sommer was born on Nov. 26, 1903, in Prague, and started learning the piano from her sister at age 5.

As a girl, she met the author Franz Kafka, a friend of her brother-in-law, and delighted in the stories that he told.

She also remembered Kafka saying, "In this world to bring up children: in this world?"

Alice married Leopold Sommer in 1931. Their son was born in 1937, two years before the Nazi invasion of Czechoslovakia.

"This was especially for Jews a very, very hard time. I didn't mind, because I enjoyed to be a mother and I was full of enthusiasm about being a mother, so I didn't mind so much," she said.

Jews were allowed to shop for only half an hour in the afternoon, by which time the shops were empty. Most Jewish families were forced to leave their family apartments and were crammed into one apartment with other families, but her family was allowed to keep its home.

"We were poor, and we knew that they will send us away, and we knew already in this time

that it was our end," she said.

In 1942, her 73-year-old mother was transported to Terezin, then a few months later to Treblinka, an extermination camp.

"And I went with her of course till the last moment. This was the lowest point in my life. She was sent away. Till now I don't know where she was, till

CNN says Piers Morgan's talk show is ending

LOS ANGELES (AP)—CNN says the prime-time talk show "Piers Morgan Live" is coming to an end.

Morgan succeeded Larry King in the 0200 GMT time slot three years ago, but his show has had lackluster ratings.

CNN said Sunday that the show's final airdate has yet to be determined.

Morgan is a former British tabloid editor who turned to television, including stints as a judge on NBC's "America's Got Talent" and a contestant



Morgan

on "Celebrity Apprentice."

He hosted BBC's "You Can't Fire Me, I'm Famous" and did interview shows and documentaries for ITV.

Morgan told The New York Times that he and CNN President Jeff Zucker were discussing a new role for him at the chan-

nel. CNN's audience has tired of hearing a Brit weigh in American cultural issues, Morgan said in a story posted online Sunday. CNN did not comment on Morgan's future with the channel.

Morgan served as editor of The Daily Mirror from 1995 to 2004. He has been questioned in connection with Britain's long-running phone hacking scandal, which has led to numerous arrests, resignations and the closure of Rupert Murdoch's News of the World tabloid.

Earlier this month, Morgan confirmed that he was interviewed in December by British police investigating the illegal interception of telephone voicemails. Morgan, who said he had given a previous witness statement, has consistently denied wrongdoing.

In Loving Memory

Eduardo C. Nuqui
Lovingly known as Eddie
Born on April 9, 1957 and was called to his eternal rest on February 20, 2014 at the age of 56.

Rosary is offered nightly at 7:00pm at Big Brother Auto Shop in China Town. Schedule of viewing and repatriation of his remains will be announced at a later date.

Your thoughts and prayers are deeply appreciated

Thank you – Maraming Salamat po

The Family

Kiss says it won't play at Rock HOF induction

WALL TOWNSHIP, New Jersey (AP)—Kiss won't rock and roll all night—or at any point during the day, either—when they are inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in April, the band said Sunday.

The 40-year-old group is unable to agree on which lineup should perform during the April 10 ceremony in New York City, and has decided not to plug in at all.

The dispute concerns whether original members Ace Frehley and Peter Criss would join Gene Simmons and Paul Stanley in a live performance, or whether the current lineup of Stanley, Simmons, Eric Singer and Tommy Thayer would play instead.

In a message on its website, Kiss said it won't perform with any lineup, calling it "an emotional situation where there is no way to please everyone."

"Our intention was to celebrate the entire history of Kiss and give credit to all members, including longtime present members Tommy Thayer and Eric Singer, and additionally Bruce Kulick and Eric Carr all who have made this band what it is, regardless of the Rock and Roll Hall Of Fame's point



In this Thursday June 13, 2013, file photo, from left: bassist Gene Simmons, guitarist Tommy Thayer and singer Paul Stanley of the US band Kiss perform on stage in Berlin, Germany.

of view," the band wrote on its web site. "Although Kiss has moved forward far longer without them, Ace and Peter are at the very foundation of what we have built and this would all be impossible had they not been a part of it in the beginning."

The band made no mention of former guitarists Vinnie Vincent, who helped kick off the band's unmasked era, or Mark St. John, who was with the band briefly in 1984 and who died in 2007.

"It is over 13 years since the original lineup has played to-

gether in makeup and we believe the memory of those times would not be enhanced," Kiss wrote on its site. "To bring this to a quick end, we have decided not to play in any line-up, and we will focus our attention on celebrating our induction into the Rock

and Roll Hall Of Fame."

The festering dispute was brought to a boil when Frehley called into Eddie Trunk's syndicated radio show Friday night to say that Simmons and Stanley had rejected a reunion with the original four members

for the induction.

"They just shot down any type of reunion with us," Frehley said during the broadcast. "It's very frustrating. It's what the fans wanted, it's what the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame wanted, and it's not gonna happen. You don't want to do something for the fans after 40 years of them supporting you?"

The band's statement said it has never refused to play with Frehley and Criss.

Criss, who lives in Wall Township, New Jersey, said he wanted to let fans know there would be no reunion before they bought tickets for the induction ceremony, which range from \$120 to nearly \$600.

"This is disgraceful, and I feel bad for the fans who were looking forward to the four of us being inducted together," he said.

Criss did not indicate whether he would attend the induction; Frehley said he is unsure whether he'll be there.

Kiss began in 1973, and the original lineup played together until 1980. They reunited from 1996 to 2000, but the band has continued with replacement members wearing the Frehley and Criss makeup and costumes.

Paula Deen says she's 'back in the saddle'

MIAMI BEACH, Florida (AP)—Paula Deen continued maneuvering for a comeback Sunday, turning a beachside cooking demonstration into a public apology for the racist comments that decimated her career last year.

The former Food Network star took the stage to prepare chicken and dumplings at the South Beach Wine and Food Festival, but before beginning asked the crowd if they minded if she talked about something serious for a moment. Without ever explicitly discussing the allegations or comments she has admitted making, she said she was glad to be back and that "I am not a quitter."

"We have come off of a very hard summer my family and I, my team, my partners," she said to a cheering crowd of several hundred fans. "But you know, I have heard on more than one occasion...that I've never apologized. So if anybody did not hear me apologize, I would like to apologize to those who did not hear me."

Deen's career has been in shambles following a one-two punch of public relations disasters. In 2012, she was criticized for announcing she had both diabetes and a lucrative endorsement deal for a drug to treat the condition she'd hidden until then.

Then last summer, during a legal dispute with a former employee who accused her of racial discrimination and sexual harassment, she acknowledged having used racial slurs in the past. Most of her endorsement, book and TV deals fell apart within days.

Deen has mostly stayed out of the spotlight since then, even avoiding the Food Network's 20th anniversary party last October. But lately, she has made it clear she wants back. Earlier this month, she announced that private investment firm Najafi Companies is investing \$75 million to \$100 million to help her make a comeback.

As part of the deal, she's launching an umbrella company, Paula Deen Ventures, that will oversee her restaurants, cookbooks and product endorsements. And Sunday's crowd seemed primed for it all, shouting out to her "You don't need to apologize!" and "We want you back, Paula!"

"Ya'll's cards and letters that I got, helped me get out of bed every day," she replied.

Midway through the demo, Food Network star Robert Irvine joined Deen onstage. Irvine survived his own scandal in 2008 when the Food Network let him go over discrepancies in claims he'd made over his work experience. He eventually returned to the cable TV channel, seemingly unblemished.

"This is a warning to you," Irvine told Deen. "You've apologized. You've eaten crow. You're done. Don't do it anymore. I've been there."

Before a roaring crowd, Irvine then got down on his hands and knees while Deen straddled his back and rode him across the stage, a reenactment of a gimmick they'd done during a previous festival.

"I'm back in the saddle!" she yelled to the crowd.



This image released by Columbia Pictures shows Marianne Jean-Baptiste, left, and Joel Kinnaman in a scene from "RoboCop."

'Lego Movie' lead builds; No. 1 for third weekend

1. **"The Lego Movie,"** \$31.5 million (\$23.1 million international).
2. **"3 Days to Kill,"** \$12.3 million.
3. **"Pompeii,"** \$10 million (\$22.8 million international).
4. **"RoboCop,"** \$9.4 million (\$17.7 million international).
5. **"The Monuments Men,"** \$8.1 million (\$13.6 million international).
6. **"About Last Night,"** \$7.4 million.
7. **"Ride Along,"** \$4.7 million.
8. **"Frozen,"** \$4.4 million (\$9 million international).
9. **"Endless Love,"** \$4.3 million (\$1.3 million international).
10. **"Winter's Tale,"** \$2.1 million (\$2.4 million international).

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Action-packed new releases couldn't stack up to 3-D hit "The Lego Movie," which took the No. 1 slot in its third weekend at the box office.

The Warner Bros. animated film bested Relativity Media's "3 Days to Kill" and Sony's "Pompeii" on their opening weekends.

"The Lego Movie," featuring the voices of Chris Pratt, Elizabeth Banks and Morgan Freeman, earned \$31.5 million, according to studio estimates Sunday. The domestic total has passed \$183 million. Overseas, it grossed \$23.1 million this weekend.

Heading into full-fledged franchise territory with a sequel set to release in May 2017, "The

Lego Movie" is the highest-grossing film of 2014.

"It's been really tough for any of the newcomers to displace 'Lego,'" said Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst for box-office tracker Rentrak. "They had such a great release date that put them in this perfect position to dominate the marketplace for several weeks. For 'Lego' to earn \$31 million in its third weekend, that would be impressive in its first weekend for any film in the first quarter."

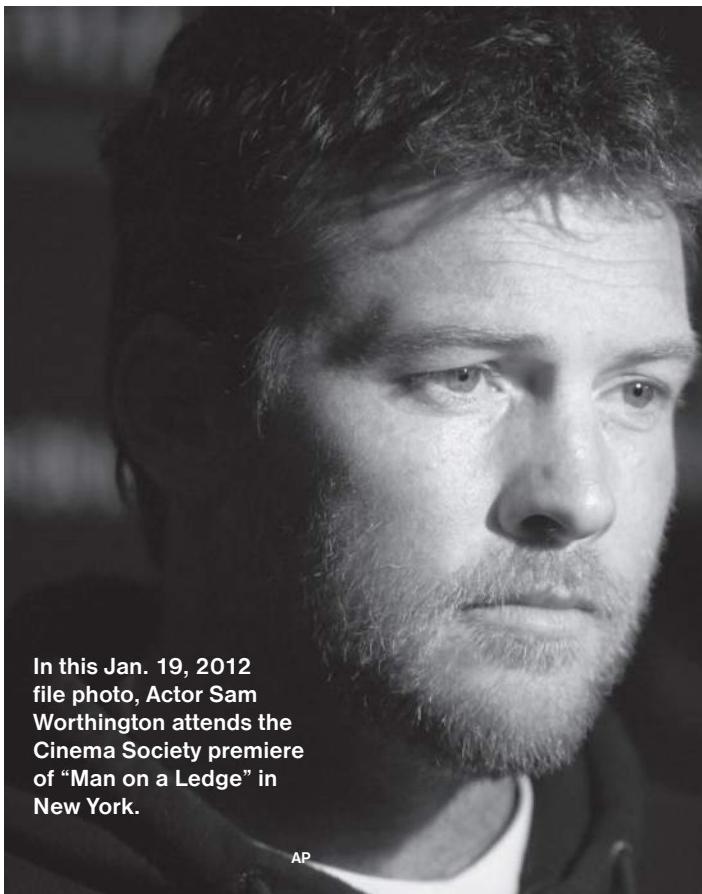
Relativity Media's crime drama "3 Days to Kill," starring Kevin Costner and Amber Heard, came in second with \$12.3 million in its first weekend at the multiplex.

"Pompeii," Sony's boiling

gladiator drama starring "Game of Thrones" star Kit Harington, took third place with \$10 million. There was a fairly even gender split for the Constantin-financed film, with the audience breaking down as 52 percent male and 48 percent female. The film's slot in the top five was steered mostly by viewers under 30.

"Pompeii got savaged by critics," Dergarabedian said. "'3 Days to Kill' wasn't loved by critics either, so you had two films that didn't have a shot at taking 'Lego' out. But these movies did about what we would expect."

The box office results for "Pompeii" were much better overseas, as the film made \$22.8 million internationally.



In this Jan. 19, 2012 file photo, Actor Sam Worthington attends the Cinema Society premiere of "Man on a Ledge" in New York.

AP

'Avatar' actor Sam Worthington arrested in NYC

NEW YORK (AP)—Police say actor Sam Worthington has been arrested in New York City for punching a photographer after the man kicked Worthington's girlfriend in the shin.

The 37-year-old "Avatar" actor was arrested on an assault charge following the incident Sunday evening.

The Australian actor was released and is due back in court on Wednesday. Police did not say what caused the scuffle.

The photographer, 37-year-old Sheng Li, was arrested on charges of reckless endangerment, assault and harassment. He's being held pending arraignment.

It wasn't immediately clear if both had lawyers.

'Amish Mafia' star sentenced for suspended license

LANCASTER, Pennsylvania (AP)—A star of the reality TV series "Amish Mafia" has been sentenced to prison after repeatedly driving with a suspended license.

A central Pennsylvania judge on Friday ordered 29-year-old John Schmucker to serve three months behind bars.

Schmucker's most recent citation was issued Dec. 8. The Intelligencer Journal/Lancaster New Era reports it was his 10th such offense over the past several years.

Defense attorney Steven Breit says he'll appeal and ask for house arrest.

The third season of "Amish Mafia," which is based in Lancaster County, begins Tuesday on the Discovery Channel. It's not clear how Schmucker's case will affect future filming.

Another member of the cast pleaded guilty last summer to charges of eluding police and driving with a suspended license.

'12 Years,' 'Blue Jasmine,' 'Gravity' gather honors

By SUSAN KING
LOS ANGELES TIMES

LOS ANGELES—With the Academy Awards less than a week away, "12 Years a Slave," "Blue Jasmine," "Gravity" and "Frozen" picked up more industry honors at costume design and sound mixing award presentations over the weekend.

At the 16th Costume Designer Guild Awards on Saturday

Rock star Hagar talks rum and coffee table books

MIAMI (AP)—One is a rock star and the other a rock star chef, but Sammy Hagar and Emeril Lagasse have a shared passion for food and music.

"He loves music as much as I love cooking," Hagar said before giving a weekend concert at the South Beach Wine and Food Festival, where he teamed up with Lagasse for a night of classic guitar tunes and rum.

The men have been friends for years, often even vacationing together. Lagasse even cooked at Hagar's wedding more than 20 years ago—before the chef was even on the Food Network.

"Sometimes he cooks for me in the house," Hagar said. "I have an acoustic guitar and play and goof off while he's cooking. And I will jump up and say, 'Emeril, let me cook one dish.' And I'll bang something out."

Hagar, known as the "Red Rocker" and former lead singer of the band Van Halen, sold his part of the Cabo Wabo Tequila company (he still owns the Cabo Wabo restaurants and has the logo

tattooed on his left arm) not long ago and turned his attention to rum. Sammy's Beach Bar Rum is made in Hawaii, where Hagar has a home.

"The only white rum you can drink straight," he said after taking a sip of a mojito made with his rum. "You can do shots like tequila. Put it over rocks. It's so pure."

Hagar grew up around food—his grandfather was a "real" Italian chef—and he often cooks at home. But not for a lot of people.

"That's stress," he said, adding that his backup plan was never to be a chef.

He has a handful of restaurants and bars and a best-selling autobiography, not to mention the rum business. But it was clear while hanging with Hagar and sipping rum drinks that this funny curly-haired rocker is always thinking of his next project. He said he's working on a coffee table book that will include cocktails and food pairings, naturally.

"I would just like to be the real most interesting man in the world," he joked, referring to the character in a Dos Equis beer advertising campaign. "I want to do so many things. And I want to do them good."



In this Saturday, Feb. 22, 2014 photo, musician Sammy Hagar holds a bottle of his Beach Bar Rum, and a mojito made with the rum, during an interview in Miami.

evening in Beverly Hills, Patricia Norris won period film for "12 Years a Slave." Suzy Benzinger took contemporary film for "Blue Jasmine," and Trish Summerville earned fantasy film for "The Hunger Games: Catching Fire."

On the television side, Ellen Mirojnick won television movie or miniseries for "Behind the Candelabra," and Caroline McCall won period/fantasy television series for

"Downton Abbey." Contemporary television series went to Tom Broecker for "House of Cards."

At the 50th Cinema Audio Society Awards on Saturday evening in Los Angeles, a seven-person team from "Gravity" won for sound mixing in a live-action motion picture. "Frozen" took the top prize for sound mixing in an animated motion picture.

"Behind the Candelabra"

won for sound mixing in a television movie or miniseries, and the "Game of Thrones" episode titled "The Rains of Castamere" took sound mixing in a one-hour TV series.

The "Goodnight Gracie" episode of "Modern Family" won for sound mixing in a half-hour television series, and Part 1 of "History of the Eagles" won sound mixing for nonfiction, variety or music television, series or specials.

Program for compulsive eaters gives a new outlook on life

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: I'd like to tell your readers about a wonderful program I discovered about a year ago. It's called Overeaters Anonymous (OA). The program is similar to AA, but it's for people with an eating problem.

For years, I struggled to lose weight. I tried dozens of diets, pills and saw several doctors. I would lose some weight, but I could never stick with a program, so I gained back more than I lost. I felt like a loser.

I was a food junkie. I ate when I was happy, sad, depressed, bored or lonely. I would buy candy at the checkout counter at the market and eat it on the way home. Then I'd hide the wrapper in the garage so my family wouldn't know I ate it.

I hid candy in the kitchen cabinets so no one would find it, then I'd sneak in and eat it later. I could never have only one serving size of chips or cookies. I would consume half a bag before I stopped.

Since joining OA, I have lost more than 50 pounds and feel like a new person. I have a new outlook on life and no longer have to rely on food. It's good to be able to talk with people who have the same problems I do. It's a daily struggle, but I have a sponsor and others to talk to when I'm tempted to return to my old life.

Compulsive eating is a disease, Abby. And unless people have it, they don't understand. I hope this letter will help someone who is also struggling.

GRATEFUL O.A. MEMBER IN ILLINOIS

DEAR GRATEFUL: I'm glad you found OA. It's a wonderful organization that has been around for many years. About 20 years ago, I was fortunate to meet the woman who founded it—and she was a doll—and I know the program has helped many thousands of people. Often when a person has weight issues, it is less about what he or she is eating than it is what is eating the PERSON.

Readers, OA has about 6,500 groups in more than 75 countries. There are no requirements for membership except a sincere desire to stop eating compulsively. Everyone is there to offer mutual support. I have attended some of the meetings, and there is no weighing and no embarrassment. There is only a fellowship of compassionate people who share a common problem.

There are OA chapters everywhere, but if you have trouble locating one, go to www.oa.org, or send a long, self-addressed stamped envelope to Overeaters Anonymous World Service, P.O. Box 44020, Rio Rancho, NM 87174-4020. The email address is info@oa.org.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Because of finances, I still live with my ex-partner. We have been friends for 15 years. We split all the bills, and for the most part we get along quite well.

One thing has been bothering me, though. How should I handle things when he brings home a date? I am aware he becomes intimate, and occasionally it becomes quite loud. I have talked to him about this, and he says I should turn up the TV. I have asked him if he wants me to leave for the night to give him privacy. The answer is no, that it doesn't bother him if I stay, but it becomes uncomfortable for me.

How should I approach this in an adult manner? I love him dearly, but this is very awkward!

EMBARRASSED

DEAR EMBARRASSED: It is laudable that you and your former partner are on such good terms. Out of consideration for you, why doesn't he plan to stay at his date's home or apartment whenever possible? If it isn't possible, ask him to let you know beforehand so you can make arrangements to be elsewhere for the night. I think you'd both sleep better.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

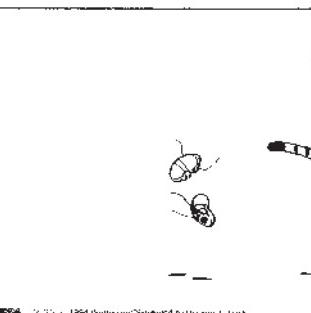
For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes



By Bill Waterson



Garfield®



By Jim Davis



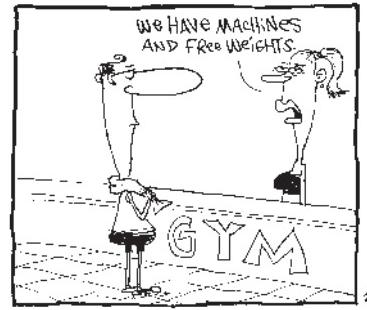
Adam@home



By Bryan Basset



The Duplex



By Glenn McCoy

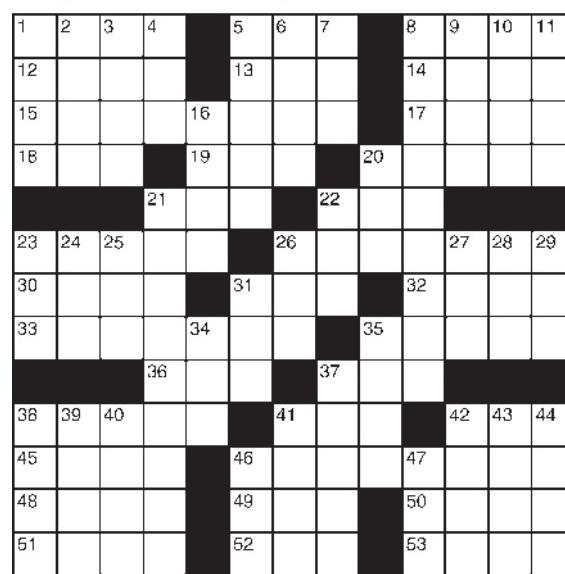


CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

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8 Some-	6-Down	Got Fun?"	7 Hostel	29 Mad	30 Mad
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13 — Solo	42 Water bar-	movie	11 Leftovers	33 Disease	disease
14 Desire	rier	9 Price-	16 Protuber-	34 That	that
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21 Rock conc-	50 Smell		18 Protected,	38 Nevada	ridge"
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with	AHAB APR RODO				
vending	CORR GUN EDDY				
machines	HYPED SOFA				
30 Sulk	ADJ MIKADO				
31 Diamond	JACKSON EDGER				
ref	ABUT BUG AUNT				
32 Baby-	BATHS BONNETS				
faced	STEREO DOC				
33 Coroner's	OWLS SWITCH				
report	BEAU DID NILE				
	HAYG ICY GLOB				
	ARCH EKE EYE				

Yesterday's answer 2-25



For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

STUMPED?

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Justin Berfield, 28; Chelsea Handler, 39; Sean Astin, 43; Tea Leoni, 48.

Happy Birthday: There is no room for error. Timing, precision and unprecedented drive will be required. Execute your plans properly and you will achieve the recognition and success you desire. Concentrate on self-improvement, networking and taking care of legal issues, contractual dealings or partnership problems. Do your best to impress the people in your life who stand behind you. Your numbers are 7, 18, 23, 27, 30, 34, 48.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Proceed with caution when dealing with institutions, business associates or unpredictable individuals. Don't let your excitement show or give someone looking for an excuse to make you look bad an opportunity to twist your words. Make an impact by doing, not talking. ☀

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Don't be afraid to be a freethinker. Be innovative and trendy. Present what you have to offer with pizzazz. Take charge and do the initial work before you count on anyone to live up to your standards. ☀

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Scale down your ideas to ensure they are realistic. If you start small and build slowly, you will have a much better chance of reaching your goals and making an impression on someone you need on your team to help raise your profile. ☀

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Nurture an important relationship. Talk about your plans and discuss any complaints you have. Fine-tuning a situation will help you reach your ob-

jectives and set the stage for future endeavors. Romance will enhance your personal life. ☀

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): The spotlight should be on learning, engaging in talks and setting up the groundwork for a partnership with someone you find innovative and tech-savvy. Expect to face delays or problems with agencies, institutions or authority figures if you travel. ☀

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Instigate and offer a visual picture for those less imaginative and you will interest the people best suited to help you turn your plans into a reality. What you do to help others will result in opportunities far beyond your expectations. ☀

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Do whatever needs to be done and keep moving. If you rely on others, you will be disappointed. Spread your interests to include people from different backgrounds or who have unusual skills to offer. Stick to your plan and encourage moderation. ☀

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Talk is cheap and will give you a pretty good idea where everyone you are dealing with stands. Your unique approach to life and the way you live will attract attention. Being unusual, authentic and energetic will pay off. ☀

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Consider your past and how best to use what you have accomplished in order to help you get ahead. Change will be required at home if you want to avoid an unsavory situation due to meddlers seeking to damage your position. ☀

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Scale down your ideas to ensure they are realistic. If you start small and build slowly, you will have a much better chance of reaching your goals and making an impression on someone you need on your team to help raise your profile. ☀

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Nurture an important relationship. Talk about your plans and discuss any complaints you have. Fine-tuning a situation will help you reach your ob-

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY



COPRIGHT 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Stand up and be counted. You have plenty to offer and mustn't hold back, even if it means taking a stance and disagreeing with someone. A passionate display, coupled with facts and expertise, will help you come out on top. ☀

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Put money matters, health issues and taking care of personal business at the top of your list. Offer suggestions to those asking for a handout, but don't donate money or time that you don't have. Update and revise to guarantee a better future. ☀

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Offer help. Your kindness and generosity will be acknowledged and can lead to influential connections. Someone from your past is likely to cause you grief if you are guilty of leaving business unfinished. Backtrack and make amends. ☀

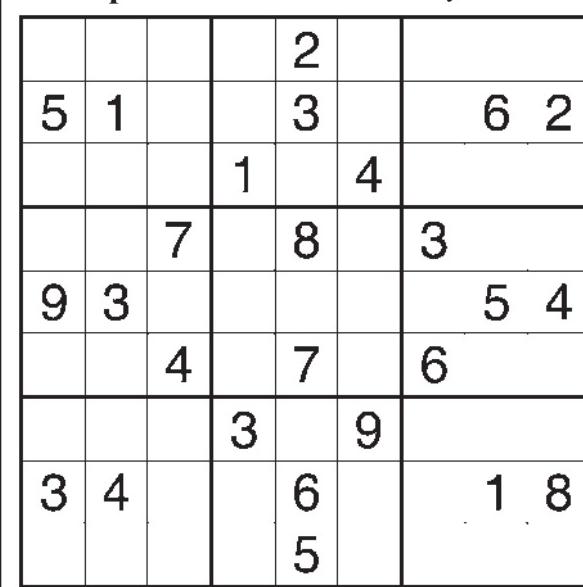
Birthday Baby: You are industrious, confident and competitive. You are imaginative and innovative.

Eugenia's website—eugenialast.com, Eugenia's android app @ <http://bit.ly/exhoro> and join Eugenia on twitter/facebook/linkedin.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



Difficulty Level ★★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

2	3	6	1	4	7	8	5	9
9	4	5	3	2	8	1	7	6
7	8	1	5	9	6	2	4	3
1	9	3	6	8	4	5	2	7
6	5	4	7	3	2	9	8	1
8	2	7	9	5	1	3	6	4
3	6	8	2	7	9	4	1	5
5	1	2	4	6	3	7	9	8
4	7	9	8	1	5	6	3	2

Difficulty Level ★★★

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

HUNTING DOGS

Solution: 8 letters

D	M	I	C	O	Y	O	T	E	S	D	R	I	B	D
E	E	S	E	P	Y	T	T	R	A	C	K	E	N	S
T	T	L	N	M	E	A	D	O	W	S	E	U	E	H
E	H	A	L	A	W	R	A	C	C	O	N	O	D	
C	O	S	C	I	W	S	T	O	P	S	S	U	T	N
T	D	H	L	O	K	D	T	I	T	E	N	S	A	S
I	S	D	L	S	L	S	S	I	S	D	R	T	G	R
V	R	L	A	E	E	E	B	I	S	E	U	U	C	E
E	O	T	I	T	L	B	C	R	H	R	I	N	H	I
F	D	F	T	G	A	R	E	C	D	T	A	R		
L	A	E	A	R	E	T	R	I	E	V	R	S		
U	R	E	K	X	N	U	C	R	S	A	E	E		
S	B	C	E	I	L	A	N	G	I	S				

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- Must be knowledgeable in interpreting plans & specifications

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WHATZIT Solution: A mixed reception

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Bosh, Wade step up in Heat win over Bulls



MIAMI (AP)—LeBron James watched from the bench in a stylish gray suit, and with the game deadlocked at half-time, he took off his necktie.

Soon the tie on the scoreboard was gone, too. Stout defense plus Chris Bosh's outside shooting and a boost from Miami's reserves helped the Heat overcome the absence of their MVP on Sunday to beat the Chicago Bulls 93-79.

"We were missing a pretty big man," Dwyane Wade said. "There's nothing we can do to replace the best player in the world, but we just had to go out there and play team basketball on both ends of the floor."

James was a late scratch after he broke his nose in Thursday's win at Oklahoma City, and his teammates picked up the slack. Former NBA No. 1 draft pick Greg Oden replaced James for his first NBA start since December 2009, and reserves Chris Andersen, Michael Beasley and Ray Allen helped the Heat pull away in the second half.

"You don't want to see guys out," said coach Erik Spoelstra, who earned his 300th career victory. "But when guys are out, I'm always curious to see how you respond as a team. We've have several of these games that could have been excuse games, but guys have stepped up."

Bosh tied a career high with four 3-pointers and had 28 points and 10 rebounds. Wade added 23 points, 10 rebounds and seven assists, while Mario Chalmers contributed 12 points and nine assists.

Defense did the rest against the offensively challenged Bulls.

"We're starting to put it together defensively," Bosh said. "We got off to a slow start early in the season, but I think right now we're starting to get it, starting to click."

Like the Heat, the Bulls were also short-handed, with starter Jimmy Butler a late scratch because of bruised ribs. They shot 36 percent, went 6 for 21 from 3-point range and were called for a 24-second violation at least six times, including twice in a row.

"We weren't playing with a good enough thrust," guard Kirk Hinrich said. "We were slow getting into our stuff. We didn't make quick decisions, and we got stuck fighting the clock."

Joakim Noah had 20 points, 15 rebounds and four blocks for the Bulls, who had won five in a row.

Clippers 125, Thunder 117

In Oklahoma City, Jamal Crawford



Miami Heat's Dwyane Wade (3) shoots over Chicago Bulls' Joakim Noah (13) during the first half of an NBA basketball game, Sunday, Feb. 23, 2014, in Miami.

scored 36 points to help the Clippers get the win.

Matt Barnes scored 24 points and Chris Paul had 18 points, 12 assists and eight rebounds for the Clippers, who snapped a two-game skid.

Kevin Durant had 42 points and 10 assists and Serge Ibaka added 20 points for the Thunder, who lost their second straight. It was the most points the Thunder have allowed this season.

Oklahoma City overcame a 15-point deficit late in the third quarter to take a 115-112 lead on a 3-pointer by Durant with 2:43 to play, but the Clippers controlled the game from there.

A 3-pointer by Crawford with 1:30 remaining gave Los Angeles a 119-115 lead.

Wizards 96, Cavaliers 83

In Cleveland, John Wall scored 21 points and Bradley Beal had 17, leading Washington to the road victory.

The Wizards held the Cavaliers to 11 fourth-quarter points to return to

Dwight Howard scored 25, James Harden 23 and Beverley 20 for the Rockets, who trailed by 10 entering the fourth quarter.

Goran Dragic scored a career-high 35 for the Suns, but missed what would have been the game-tying 3 at the buzzer. Gerald Green added 23, 18 in the third quarter, and Markieff Morris 21 for Phoenix.

Beverley, who scored 12 in the fourth, made two free throws that boosted Houston's lead to 113-110 with 20 seconds to go before Dragic scored on a layup to cut it to 113-112 with 14.7 seconds to play.

Donatas Motiejunas sank two free throws with 14.1 seconds left to put Houston up 115-112.

Blazers 108, Timberwolves 97

In Portland, Damian Lillard had 32 points and the short-handed Portland Trail Blazers rallied to beat the Minnesota Timberwolves 108-97 on Sunday night.

Thomas Robinson had 14 points and a career-high 18 rebounds for Portland, which won its second straight after a three-game slump.

Kevin Love scored 31 for Minnesota, which had won three in a row. It was Love's franchise-best fifth straight game with 30 or more points.

The Blazers played without All-Star forward LaMarcus Aldridge, who missed his third straight game with a groin injury.

After trailing by as many as 18 points in the first half, Nicolas Batum's fast-break layup gave Portland an 84-80 lead going into the fourth quarter. After Robinson's basket, Victor Claver dunked to extend the lead to 88-80.

It was more of the same as the Blazers continued to attack. Robinson, who sparked the second-half comeback, blocked Corey Brewer's shot on one end, Claver grabbed the rebound and Will Barton broke free for a dunk that gave Portland a 92-83 lead.

Nets 108, Lakers 102

In Los Angeles, Jason Collins played his first game with the Brooklyn Nets on Sunday night, becoming the first openly gay active player in the four major U.S. professional sports leagues, and Deron Williams had a season-high 30 points along with seven assists in a 108-102 victory over the Los Angeles Lakers.

Collins was signed to a 10-day contract Sunday, nearly 10 months after his announcement on April 29 in Sports Il-

lustrated. He played 10 scoreless minutes with two rebounds and five fouls.

The 12-year veteran spent his first six-plus NBA seasons with the Nets and helped them get to the NBA Finals in 2002 and 2003. This was the 35-year-old center's first NBA game since April 17, 2013, with the Washington Wizards.

Paul Pierce had 25 points and seven rebounds, helping end an 11-game Nets losing streak against the Lakers.

Pau Gasol had 22 points and 11 rebounds for the Lakers, who never led and lost for the 24th time in 30 games with Kobe Bryant, Steve Nash and Xavier Henry all sidelined by injuries.

Kings 109, Nuggets 95

In Denver, Isaiah Thomas scored 33 points, Rudy Gay had 32 and the Sacramento Kings routed the Nuggets 109-95 on Sunday night for their first win in Denver in six years.

DeMarcus Cousins added 27 points for the Kings, who snapped a nine-game losing streak to the Nuggets at the Pepsi Center. It was Sacramento's first win in the Mile High City since a 118-115 victory on April 5, 2008. The Kings have won three of their last four games overall.

Randy Foye and Evan Fournier each scored 27 points for the slumping Nuggets, who lost for the seventh time in the last eight games. The Nuggets fell to 1-5 without leading scorer Ty Lawson, who missed a sixth game because of a fractured left rib.

Down 58-51 after Foye hit a pair of 3-pointers in the third quarter, the Kings responded with a 21-2 run that put them in front 72-60 with 4:55 left in the period.

Raptors 105, Magic 90

In Toronto, Kyle Lowry scored 28 points, DeMar DeRozan had 24 and the Raptors handed the Magic their 15th straight road loss.

Terrence Ross scored 16 and Amir Johnson had 12 points and eight rebounds before leaving with a sprained right ankle in the Raptors' fifth victory in six games.

Toronto improved to 12-3 in its past 15 home games and moved six games above .500 for the first time since Feb 24, 2010, when its record was also 31-25.

Tobias Harris scored 28 points and E'Twaun Moore had 16 as the Magic opened a four-game trip with their fourth loss in five games.



P O R T C H A R - L O T T E , Fla. (AP)—

Baseball's new guidelines regarding home plate collisions will be released on Monday.

MLB executive vice president Joe Torre made the revelation Sunday after wrapping up a series of meetings to discuss expanded replay with the 15 teams that conduct spring training in Florida.

The former New York Yankees manager did not provide specifics about the plate-collision rule except to say baseball wants to curb intentional contact.

Baseball set to announce plate-collision rule

"There's a memo that's going to come out. It's pretty cut and dried at this point in time," Torre said. "If nothing else on that play, we want to eliminate those very vicious hits where you target the catcher as opposed to home plate."

Tampa Bay Rays manager Joe Maddon said there doesn't appear a radical change to existing guidelines, noting catchers still will be able to block the plate if the ball arrives in time.

"The general spirit of it is you don't want a collision intention-

ally initiated by the base runner. That's what it sounds like to me," Maddon said.

Home plate collisions also will be subject to review, however they won't cost a manager a challenge under the new system.

"It's going to cost you a challenge if you're challenging safe or out. But if it's the collision part of it, if it's going to be a violation, then that is going to be looked at the same as the home run (replay). ... The only thing different is the (umpires) are not going to leave the field, you're

going to get everything from New York," Torre said.

Torre is optimistic the new replay system that debuts this season will function as intended, helping umpires get potential game-changing calls correct while not disrupting the rhythm of play with lengthy delays.

Torre is headed Monday to Arizona, where he'll spend two days explaining expanded replay to managers and other staff members of the 15 clubs preparing for the season there.

"For the most part, the reception from all the clubs

has been very positive, which makes us happy," Torre said after a three-hour meeting with representatives from the Rays, Minnesota Twins, Boston Red Sox, Baltimore Orioles and Pittsburgh Pirates.

"The umpires are all-in on this. ... They don't like to be written about or to look at TV that night and see how they missed a play," Torre added. "They don't want that, so they're all-in on this stuff."

Ball and strikes, force outs at second base—the so-called "neighborhood play"—and sit-

uations involving base runners who tag up before advancing are among the plays that managers will not be able to challenge under the new system.

The new rules allow each team to challenge one call a game. If the manager wins the first one, he'll earn another challenge. The crew chief can request a review after the seventh inning if the manager has used his challenges.

"There have been some questions, there have been some suggestions," from managers in Florida, Torre said, adding that the changes made in the system for this season are a starting point.

Costly, political, successful: Sochi Olympics end

SOCHI, Russia
 (AP)—Flushed with pride after its athletes' spectacular showing at the costliest Olympics ever, Russia celebrated Sunday night with a visually stunning finale that handed off a smooth but politically charged Winter Games to their next host, Pyeongchang in South Korea.

Russian President Vladimir Putin, these Olympics' political architect and booster-in-chief, watched and smiled as Sochi gave itself a giant pat on the back for a Winter Games that IOC President Thomas Bach declared an "extraordinary success."

The crowd that partied in Fisht Olympic Stadium, in high spirits after the high-security games passed safely without feared terror attacks, hooted with delight when Bach said Russia delivered on promises of "excellent" venues, "outstanding" accommodation for the 2,856 athletes and "impeccable organization." The spectators let out an audibly sad moan when Bach declared the 17-day Winter Games closed.

"We leave as friends of the Russian people," Bach said.

The nation's \$51 billion investment—topping even Beijing's estimated \$40 billion layout for the 2008 Summer Games—transformed a decaying resort town on the Black Sea into a household name. All-new facilities, unthinkable in the Soviet era of drab shoddiness, showcased how far Russia has come in the two decades since it turned its back on communism. But the Olympic show didn't win over critics of Russia's backsiding on democracy and human rights under Putin and its institutionalized intolerance of gays.

Despite the bumps along the way, Bach was unrelentingly upbeat about his first games as IOC president and the nation that hosted it. One of Sochi's big successes was security. Feared attacks by Islamic militants who threatened to target the games didn't materialize.

"It's amazing what has happened here," Bach said a few hours before the ceremony. He recalled that Sochi was an "old, Stalinist-style sanatorium city"



The Olympic Rings are silhouetted as fireworks light up the sky during the closing ceremonies at the 2014 Sochi Winter Olympics on Sunday, Feb. 23, 2014, in Sochi, Russia. AP

when he visited for the IOC in the 1990s.

Dmitry Chernyshenko, head of the Sochi organizing committee, called the games "a moment to cherish and pass on to the next generations."

"This," he said, "is the new face of Russia—our Russia."

His nation celebrated its rich gifts to the worlds of music and literature in the ceremony, which started at 20:14 local time—a nod to the year that Putin seized upon to remake Russia's image with the Olympics' power to wow and concentrate global attention and massive resources.

Performers in smart tails and puffy white wigs performed a ballet of grand pianos, pushing 62 of them around the stadium floor while soloist Denis Matusev played thunderous bars from Sergei Rachmaninoff's

Concerto No.2.

There was, of course, also ballet, with dancers from the Bolshoi and the Mariinsky, among the world's oldest ballet companies. The faces of Russian authors through the ages were projected onto enormous screens, and a pile of books transformed into a swirling tornado of loose pages.

There was pomp and there was kitsch. The games' polar bear mascot - standing tall as a tree - shed a fake tear as he blew out a cauldron of flames, extinguishing the Olympic torch that burned outside the stadium. Day and night, the flame had become a favorite backdrop for "Sochi selfies," a buzzword born at these games for the fad of athletes and spectators taking DIY souvenir photos of themselves.

"Now we can see our country is very friendly," said Bo-

ris Kozikov of St. Petersburg, Russia. "This is very important for other countries around the world to see."

And in a charming touch, Sochi organizers poked fun at themselves. In the center of the stadium, dancers in shimmering silver costumes formed themselves into four rings and a clump. That was a wink to a globally noticed technical glitch in the Feb. 7 opening ceremony, when one of the five Olympic rings in a wintry opening scene failed to open. The rings were supposed to join together and erupt in fireworks.

This time, it worked: As Putin watched from the stands, the dancers in the clump waited a few seconds and then formed a ring of their own, making five, drawing laughs from the crowd.

Raucous spectators chanted "Ro-ssi-ya! Ro-ssi-ya!"—

"Russia! Russia!" They got their own Olympic keepsakes - medals of plastic with embedded lights that flashed in unison, creating pulsating waves of color across the stadium.

Athletes said goodbye to rivals-turned-friends from far off places, savoring their achievements or lamenting what might have been—and, for some, looking ahead to 2018. The city where they will compete, Pyeongchang, offered in its segment of the show a teaser of what to expect in four years with video of venues, Korean music and delightful dancers in glowing bird suits.

Winners of Russia's record 13 gold medals marched into the stadium carrying the country's white, blue and red flag. With a 3-0 victory over Sweden in the men's hockey final Sunday, Canada claimed the last

gold from the 98 medal events.

Absent were six competitors caught by what was the most extensive anti-doping program in Winter Olympic history, with the IOC conducting a record 2,631 tests - nearly 200 more than originally planned.

Russia's leader had reason to be pleased as the Olympics dubbed the "Putin Games" ended. His nation's athletes topped the Sochi medals table, both in golds and total - 33. That represented a stunning turnaround from the 2010 Vancouver Games. There, a meager three golds and 15 total for Russia seemed proof of its gradual decline as a winter sports power since Soviet Union collapsed in 1991. Russia's bag of Sochi gold was the biggest-ever haul by a non-Soviet team.

Russia's last gold came Sunday in four-man bobsled. The games' signature moment for home fans was Adelina Sotnikova, cool as ice at 17, becoming Russia's first gold medalist in women's Olympic figure skating.

Not every headline out of Sochi was about sport. Going in, organizers faced criticism about Russia's strict policies toward gays, though once they started sliding and skiing and skating, most every athlete chose not to use the Olympic spotlight to campaign for the cause. An activist musical group and movement, Pussy Riot, appeared in public and was horsewhipped by Cossack militiamen, drawing international scrutiny.

And during the last days of competition, Sochi competed for attention with violence in Ukraine, Russia's neighbor and considered a vital sphere of influence by the Kremlin.

In an Associated Press interview on Saturday, Bach singled out Ukraine's victory in women's biathlon relay as "really an emotional moment" of the games, praising Ukrainian athletes for staying to compete despite the scores dead in protests back home.

"Mourning on the one hand, but knowing what really is going on in your country, seeing your capital burning, and feeling this responsibility, and then winning the gold medal," he said, "this really stands out for me."

Earnhardt Jr. wins 2nd Daytona 500 a decade later



DAYTONA 500
B E A C H ,
Fla. (AP)—

Through rain and wrecks, on Daytona's longest day, this was a drought Dale Earnhardt Jr. was determined to end.

NASCAR's most popular driver won the Daytona 500 on Sunday night for the second time—a decade after his first victory—while snapping a 55-race losing streak dating to 2012.

The victory ended a streak of futility at Daytona International Speedway, where he finished second in three of the previous four 500s.

"Winning this race is the greatest feeling that you could feel in this sport besides accepting the trophy for the championship," said Earnhardt, who climbed from his car in Victory Lane and hugged every member of his Hendrick Motorsports crew. "I didn't know if

I'd ever get the chance to feel it again and it feels just as good."

As he crossed the finish line in his No. 88 Chevrolet, the few who withstood a rain delay of 6 hours, 22 minutes screaming their support, Earnhardt euphorically radioed his crew, "This is better than the first one!" He was met by Rick Hendrick after his victory lap, and the team owner climbed into the driver's window for a ride to Victory Lane.

Rain stopped the race about 45 minutes after it began for a delay of more than six hours. When it resumed, Earnhardt dominated at the track where his father was killed in an accident on the last lap of the 2001 race.

But it got chaotic as it neared the conclusion, with 42 lead changes and four multi-car accidents. An accident with seven laps to go triggered by pole-sitter Austin Dillon, driving the No. 3—Earnhardt's father's

number making its return to the Daytona 500 for the first time since 2001—set up a final two-lap shootout to the finish.

Earnhardt got a great jump past Brad Keselowski on the restart, and had teammate Jeff Gordon behind him protecting his bumper. But Denny Hamlin came charging through the field and Earnhardt suddenly had a challenger with one lap to go.

Then an accident farther back in the field involving former winners Kevin Harvick and Jamie McMurray brought out the caution and the win be-

longed to Earnhardt.

"We could fight off battle after battle. We got a little help at the end there from Jeff to get away on the restart," Earnhardt said. "This is amazing. I can't believe this is happening. I never take this for granted, man because it doesn't happen twice, let alone once."

Hamlin was second in a Joe Gibbs Racing Toyota, followed by Keselowski in a Team Penske Ford. Hendrick took fourth and fifth with Gordon and last year's race winner, Jimmie Johnson.

Day wins, and Dubuisson puts on a show



MARANA, Ariz. (AP)—Jason Day posed with a trophy he always believed would be his when he arrived in the high desert of Arizona for the Match Play Championship.

He never could have imagined how. Day stood over a 20-foot birdie putt to beat Victor Dubuisson on the 17th hole at Dove Mountain, a championship match that had been far from memorable to that point. When it finally ended on the 23rd hole, they delivered the wildest conclusion ever in the 16-year history this World Golf Championship.

Twice he thought Dubuisson had no shot. Twice the Frenchman delivered shots out of the desert that did not look humanly possible.

"I felt like I had a heart attack out there a couple of times," Day said. "Match play is very exciting because you just don't know what's going to happen."

The biggest flaw of the Accenture Match Play Championship is that it works in reverse. The excitement is at the start of the five-day tournament, and when the 64-man field is reduced to two finalists, the championship match rarely provides compelling theater no matter who is playing.

That all changed Sunday.

All it took was a 26-year-old Australian who played like he's ready to fulfill his talent, and a 23-year-old Frenchman who starred in defeat with two par saves

in a playoff that even the great Seve Ballesteros would have applauded.

"Those two shots were amazing," Dubuisson said. "I just played it like I had nothing to lose."

By the end of a long day, so much was forgotten.

Day reached the final by holding off Rickie Fowler, who had a chance to cut the deficit to one hole with a 6-foot birdie putt on the 16th hole, and instead three-putted for bogey to lose the match. Dubuisson became the third player to reach the final in his debut when he beat Ernie Els on the 18th hole. Els hit into the bunker short of the green and missed a 12-foot putt to extend the match.

There were great moments in the final match, such as Day having to lay up on the par-5 11th hole only to hit a 3-iron from 269 yards into 5 feet to match birdies with Dubuisson. Day made another great putt on No. 15 to stay 2 up. He made putts like that all week.

But this is where it turned into theater rarely seen on a Sunday at Match Play.

Day was 2 up with two to play, and Dubuisson was in a fairway bunker 174 yards from the hole. Here's how the next two hours unfolded:

- Dubuisson blasted out to 15 feet and made birdie to stay alive.

- Day three-putted from the fringe on No. 18, leaving a 10-foot par putt for the win just short, flipping his putter in disgust.

Over the next two holes, Day thought he had won. And for good reason.

Dubuisson sailed over the green on

off a walk and sacrifice fly and drawing a two-run single from Kianna Aldan, but they failed to complete their comeback bid, as McDonald's stood strong on defense in the sixth and last inning. Tenorio got the first out, tagging Kevin Foreman out, as the latter headed to second. The last two outs were made when Sanchez struck out third batter Eric Jang and second baseman Jared Reyes caught a fly ball from Mallens.

Riding on the momentum of its victory over the Red Sox, McDonald's



AP
Jason Day, of Australia, poses with the trophy after winning his championship match against Victor Dubuisson, of France, during the Match Play Championship golf tournament on Sunday, Feb. 23, 2014, in Marana, Ariz.

No. 1 and into the desert, the ball lodged at the base of a cholla. Day was in the bunker, a fairly simple shot, especially when CBS announcer David Feherty walked over and said the Frenchman would have to take a penalty drop.

With an all-or-nothing swing, Dubuisson whacked his 9-iron through

crushed the Ol'Aces in last Sunday's second game, 19-5.

Jared Reyes' inside-the-park homer in the fourth inning highlighted McDonald's demolition of the Ol'Aces. Reyes nearly completed a rare cycle in the rout, as he also made a single and a double on a 3-for-4 performance at bat.

The McDonald's pitcher flied out at third base in his first trip at the plate for the first out, but after that his team got three quick runs off two passed balls and an error at shorts strop. McDon-

ald's went on to bag three more runs off Tommy Santos' two-RBI single and an RBI walk.

The Ol'Aces countered with only two runs at the bottom of the first off Trevor Lieto's RBI single and stolen base and were then scoreless in the next two, while McDonald's added seven more to pull away. Another six runs at the top of the fourth inning widened McDonald's margin, putting into waste the three runs the Ol'Aces carded at the bottom.

"He knows what it takes to be a good player and he shared that to our players. He inspired them to play for the national team and keep training to have a chance to play in pro leagues and international competitions," Zapanta said.

The NMIFA official added Kim's visit showed that EAFF is taking care of its member-federations.

"Mr. Kim's visit proved that EAFF is giving importance to us and would want to know how they can assist us to continue the development of the sport in the CNMI," Zapanta said.

other counties in Asia don't know anything about CNMI football. But in the past years and with CNMI teams competing in EAFF events, the island is getting recognition from other members. It is gaining respect, as other members know that the CNMI is doing its best to keep up with the rest of the region," said Kim, who left the island last Saturday.

NMIFA general secretary Ross Zapanta said the association is thankful and honored by Kim's short visit, saying his presence gave motivations to players, especially the young ones.

pick up their scoring anew in the fourth frame, as each player Tenorio fielded in the game found ways to contribute to the team's cause.

Muna paced Kagman with his 17 markers, while Jones added 11. Four Ayuyus combined for 25 markers, while no Eucon play reached double figures in scoring as Zion Alamer and Bob Ji had only 9 apiece.

Meanwhile, Kagman also avenged its first-round loss to Eucon (57-71) with a 65-55 victory in last Friday's varsity match.

Kagman (4-3) now has won its last two matches after dropping three

That's perfect," Day said. "After we both walked off the green, he (Feherty) looked at me and he goes, 'Sorry.'"

Now for the encore.

From the ninth fairway, Dubuisson pulled his approach left of the green, left of the bleacher and into the desert at the bottom of a bush. Surely, it was over.

"I walked over there and it was in a tree, a flower tree of some sort, in this little crevice. I mean, it looked absolutely dead," Day said. "I'm like, 'Yes.' I hit 8-iron into 20 feet. There was so much pressure on him. And he does it again.

"At that time, you're just thinking, 'Do I need to just hand him the trophy now after those two shots?'"

Dubuisson had two chances to win. His pitch on the 10th hole took a hard hop and rolled out 12 feet, and they halved it with bogeys. And his 20-foot birdie putt on the 14th (the 22nd hole) turned away at the last inch.

Day ended the madness at Dove Mountain on the fifth extra hole when he pitched over a mound to 4 feet and made birdie, a sigh of relief as much as it was cause for celebration at capturing his first World Golf Championship.

It was worth \$1.53 million and moved Day to No. 4 in the world.

Dubuisson earned \$906,000, all but assuring a PGA Tour card for next year. And he all but clinched a spot on the Ryder Cup team in September, moving to the top of the points table by the equivalent of about \$1.5 million.

He looks forward to playing more events in America. The next time, it's a safe bet everyone will know who he is.

BACK-TO-BACK

From Page 28

Three more runs in the fourth inning gave McDonald's more distance, 9-1. Again, Sanchez led McDonald's offense at the top of the fourth with a two-RBI single, while the other run came off Sun Joon Tenorio's stolen base. The Red Sox had no answer, extending their drought for the third straight inning.

The Red Sox finally ended their silence in the fifth after recording two runs

WORLD

From Page 28

sured the most the times he played for the Korean national team.

"It takes a lot of time, sacrifices, and practice to make it to the national team, so I admire these players who want to represent the CNMI in international/regional tournaments," said Kim, who watched the training sessions of the Commonwealth's girls U15 team and the men's squad at the Oleai Sports Complex Field last Friday.

"Besides becoming members of the

KAGMAN

From Page 28

Tenorio's wards built enough cushion in the first half and got back into their rhythm in the fourth to secure the double-digit victory.

The burly Darion Jones started out the Ayuyus' attack with back-to-back baskets in the opening quarter, while the speedy Mike Muna drilled six of the team's last eight markers to lift Kagman to a 15-9 advantage. Eucon was held to three field goals and had only Glenn Vidal scoring more than one basket in the first period.

CNMI team, I know they are dreaming of one day playing in the pro and they could do that if they will continue to improve their skills and get proper guidance from coaches and support from the FA," the EAFF general secretary added.

The 48-year-old official also said that with the growing interest in CNMI football, its participation in various off-island tournaments, and continuous education of the coaches, referees, and other officials, the Commonwealth is getting recognition from its peers.

"Before, members of EAFF and

The Blazers continued to bleed for points in the second quarter, while the Ayuyus had a breakout game, firing 23 points. Isaiah Retan dropped 6 points to lead four other Ayuyus, who made at least two baskets apiece in the second quarter, as Kagman erected a 38-17 halftime lead.

At the resumption of the game, the Ayuyus were limited to 6 points off Muna's pair of baskets and Jeff Castro's lone fieldgoal. However, the Blazers did not perform well either, as they just duplicated their second-quarter output (8 points), leaving Kagman with a 44-25 margin. The Ayuyus went on to

other counties in Asia don't know anything about CNMI football. But in the past years and with CNMI teams competing in EAFF events, the island is getting recognition from other members. It is gaining respect, as other members know that the CNMI is doing its best to keep up with the rest of the region," said Kim, who left the island last Saturday.

NMIFA general secretary Ross Zapanta said the association is thankful and honored by Kim's short visit, saying his presence gave motivations to players, especially the young ones.

pick up their scoring anew in the fourth frame, as each player Tenorio fielded in the game found ways to contribute to the team's cause.

Muna paced Kagman with his 17 markers, while Jones added 11. Four Ayuyus combined for 25 markers, while no Eucon play reached double figures in scoring as Zion Alamer and Bob Ji had only 9 apiece.

Meanwhile, Kagman also avenged its first-round loss to Eucon (57-71) with a 65-55 victory in last Friday's varsity match.

Kagman (4-3) now has won its last two matches after dropping three

straight games and is in a tie for second place with Southern (pending results of last Monday's games). The MHS Dolphins lead the varsity division with their unblemished 7-0 card, while Eucon and Mount Carmel School own 4-5 and 0-7 slates, respectively.

KHS 60 — Muna 17, Jones 11, Retan 9, Tenorio 8, Castro 5, Aaron 3, Lampkin 2, Torres 2, Maratita 1.

Eucon 32 — Alamer 9, Ji 9, Jac. Wang 7, Vidal 6, Je. Wang 3, Jam. Wang 2, P. Wang 2.

Scoring by quarters: 15-9, 38-17, 44-25, 60-32.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	31	25	.554	—
Brooklyn	26	28	.481	4
New York	21	35	.375	10
Boston	19	38	.333	12½
Philadelphia	15	41	.268	16

Southeast Division

Miami	40	14	.741	—
Washington	28	28	.500	13
Charlotte	27	30	.474	14½
Atlanta	26	29	.473	14½
Orlando	17	41	.293	25

Central Division

Indiana	42	13	.764	—
Chicago	29	26	.527	13
Detroit	23	33	.411	19½
Cleveland	22	35	.386	21
Milwaukee	10	45	.182	32

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

San Antonio	40	16	.714	—
Houston	38	18	.679	2
Dallas	34	23	.596	6½
Memphis	31	24	.564	8½
New Orleans	23	32	.418</	

Marianas Cup Beach Volleyball Festival Men's Finals

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Hitoshi Murakami, left, talks with Manny Guarin during a brief break after Game 1 of the finals.



Hitoshi Murakami jumps serve in Game 2.



A game official checks on Paul Baxter during Game 2 of the finals.



Misaki Cramer dives for the ball.



The finalists, from left, Manny Guarin, Paul Baxter, Misaki Cramer, and Hitoshi Murakami pose for a photo after playing in the men's division finals of the 2014 Marianas Cup Beach Volleyball Festival last Sunday at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan sandcourts.



Manny Guarin gets ready to serve.



Paul Baxter, left, gives a high-five to Misaki Cramer after the latter set him up for a spike.



Spectators enjoy the action in the hotly contested Game 1 of the finals.



Former NMIVA president Jon Cramer urges the crowd to support his son Misaki and Paul Baxter.



**Costly, political,
successful: Sochi
Olympics end**

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**Bosh, Wade
step up in Heat
win over Bulls**

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Back-to-back wins for McDonald's

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Last year's runner-up McDonald's finally got its act together after 0-3 start in the Major division of the 2014 Saipan Little League Baseball League, notching two straight victories last week at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

McDonald's, which played eventual champions Falcons in last year's title match, barged into the win column last Thursday after outclassing the Red Sox in a make-up game, 9-5. A.J. Sanchez towed McDonald's to its first win of the season after going 3-for-4 at bat and scoring five RBIs.

A five-run top of the third inning boosted McDonald's chance to end a three-game losing skid, as it turned a tied match into a 6-1 lead. Last season's finalist made it to the board first off Sanchez's RBI double at the top of the first, while the Red Sox quickly responded with Alexiana Tyquengco stealing home.

The match remained in a deadlock as neither team scored in the second inning before Sanchez went to work anew for McDonald's, this time hitting a two-run single to give his team cushion. McDonald's three other runs were courtesy off Henry Fleming's RBI singles and errors from Red Sox catcher Shane Mallens.

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on Page 26**



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Sun Joon Tenorio pitches for McDonald's, which bagged back-to-back wins in the Major division of the 2014 Saipan Little League Baseball last week at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

World Cup veteran, Olympian visits Saipan



Chelsea FC Soccer School (Hong Kong) technical director Luam Khen Koo, NMIFA president Jerry Tan, EAFF general secretary Joo-Sung Kim, and NMIFA general secretary Ross Zapanta pose for a photo at the Oleai Sports Complex Field last Friday.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Three-time World Cup participant Joo-Sung Kim of Korea was in town last weekend to meet local football officials and players. "I am impressed with the interest that the youth players are showing toward the sport. The FA (Northern Mariana Island Football Association) and its officials are doing a great job in pushing for the development of football in the CNMI," said Kim, who is a prominent figure in Korean football, especially in the late 80s and early 90s, and is now

the general secretary of the East Asian Football Federation.

Nicknamed the "Wild Horse" during his playing years for his tremendous speed and long, curly hair, Kim suited up for the Korean National Team in three World Cup editions (1986, 1990, and 1994). He also represented Korea in the 1988 Olympic Games in Seoul, in Asian Games (1986 and 1990), and AFC Asian Cup (1988) and played for Korean pro team (Daewoo Royals) and German club (VfL Bochum). The midfielder is one of the consistent scorers for Korea and was named Asian Footballer of the Year in three straight years (1989 to 1991).

Off all his accomplishments, he treats

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**Kagman sweeps Eucon
in MISO boys caging**

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Kagman High School turned the tables on

Eucon International School, winning their second meeting, 60-32, in the junior varsity division of the 2013-2014 Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization Boys Basketball League last Friday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

The Ayuyus, who squandered a 9-point lead in the third quarter in their 32-35 sorry loss to the Blazers in the first round, this time made sure they went all the way en route to the 28-point victory. Kagman now has a 4-2 record for second place in the team standings, just one win behind division leader MHS, while Eucon fell to a 2-4 slate and shares the third spot with Saipan Southern High School, pending results of last Monday's games.

Kagman was in command of its second outing with Eucon right at the get-go and though the Ayuyus slowed down on offense in the third quarter, coach Chris

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Kagman High School's Michael Muna, seen here going for an uncontested layup against SIS, topscored in the Ayuyus 60-32 rout of Eucon International School in the junior varsity division game in the MISO caging last Friday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.